



COLOR OF EDUCATION



Matthew Bristow-Smith

Matt Bristow-Smith is the 2019 Wells Fargo NC State Principal of the Year and has served as principal of Edgecombe Early College High School since 2014. During Mr. Bristow-Smith's tenure as EECHS principal, his school's enrollment has grown by 50 percent while maintaining a 100 percent graduation rate and a North Carolina School Performance Grade of A. Mr. Bristow-Smith takes great pride in knowing every student and staff member at his school personally, and he believes that strong relationships and a highly-qualified team are the force multipliers for everything positive that takes place at the Early College. Prior to his principalship at the Early College, Mr. Bristow-Smith served as an English teacher at Tarboro High School for 15 years, where he learned the importance of putting down deep roots in a small community. He is a North Carolina Teaching Fellow, a North East Leadership Academy Fellow, a National Board Certified teacher, and a graduate of Appalachian State and N.C. State. In 2010, Mr. Smith was recognized as a finalist for the NC State Teacher of the Year. Mr. Bristow-Smith is married to his college sweetheart, April, who is the English department chair at Nash Community College, and he has two daughters, Sophie, age 9, who wants to be a shark scientist, and Sydney, age 16, who plans to become a teacher.