



## MERIDIAN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

### **Dr. Rikki Hunt Taylor, Executive Director of Meridian Public Charter School**

Prior to joining the Meridian Public Charter School community, Dr. Rikki Hunt Taylor served as the Chief Academic officer at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School for the last five years. Navigating academic shifts required to serve students during the pandemic Dr. Taylor led the school community through a new instructional vision, adopting aligned and rigorous curricula, and designing professional learning strategies for teachers. She previously served as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Philadelphia, a position she has held since 2018.



Dr. Taylor worked for DC Public Schools for seventeen years, first as a teacher in Southeast DC and later as an Early Childhood Education Manager for a Head Start Program. Other leadership roles include: assistant principal, principal, and central office leader, serving on the DCPS Leadership Development Team as Director for the District's Aspiring Principal program. Dr. Taylor also worked for the city's first demonstration Head Start Program for families with housing insecurities.

A native Washingtonian, Dr. Taylor is a graduate of Benjamin Banneker Academic High School. She is the mother of a blended family of three children, all graduates of DC Charter and DC Public high schools. Always knowing that she would spend her career in service to others, Dr. Taylor's original career choice was to become foreign service officer; however, she realized that she wanted to positively impact her own community after studying in Los Angeles, CA, and seeing the effect of systemic inequities that existed in communities of color. Thriving in a career of teaching while hoping to achieve greater impact, Dr. Taylor shifted her role in education to school leadership and leadership coaching. Her foundational belief is that literacy is liberty and that students who are great readers are students who have an important skill necessary to thrive in life.

Dr. Taylor received a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Trinity College in Washington, DC, a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Trinity University, and an Executive Master's Degree from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. She holds a Doctoral Degree in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.