

Nicole Spicer

Assistant Principal,

Skinner North Classical School, Chicago Public Schools

2018 Surge Fellow

Nicole Spicer has been dedicated to transforming schools for the past 16 years. She believes it is her responsibility to take the children that come empty and harden by an unsupportive system and transform them into successful global citizens, ensuring the perpetuity of the voices of color at the table.

Nicole has been an educator for more than 16 years. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education, a Master's Degree as a Reading Specialist, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership. Since Nicole began her career in education, she has held positions as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and Reading Interventionist.



As a teacher in Cobb County School District (Marietta, Georgia), Nicole was named Teacher of the Year, coached an award-winning step team and was recognized at the district level for her work with struggling readers. In her role as Literacy Coach in Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Nicole designed and implemented a reading instructional program that contributed to her school moving from a Level 2 to a Level 1+ school in 2 years. Under her leadership, the Literacy Department was recognized as a demonstration site for Pearson's iLit Reading Intervention program. As a result of this success, she was nominated for New Leaders for New Schools, a premier principal preparation program that partners with CPS to train qualified candidates for the the district's quality principal pool.

As a transformational leader in education, Nicole believes all students can learn at high levels, creating choices for their secondary and postsecondary educational plans; and we can increase student achievement by focusing on meeting the social emotional learning and academic needs of each student. Nicole feels that teamwork is the ultimate way a school can be successful in reaching the goal of helping every child attain his or her full potential.

Nicole is a wife and mother of two. She enjoys reading, going to the movies, trying new restaurants and spending time with her family.