

Alisha Thomas Cromartie

Former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, D-Austell

Alisha T. Cromartie, M.Ed., is the former Superintendent of Schools at Ivy Preparatory Academies, a network of all-girls public schools of excellence. While serving as superintendent, Cromartie designed and spearheaded the turnaround of the network's operations, academic achievements and financial strength. Under her leadership, the Kirkwood campus doubled its state performance score going from a 43 to an 85. She is recognized nationally as a trailblazing education leader proving to be a transformational leader evolving from a champion of some of the most important education reforms as a state legislator, to a public education systems leader.



Prior to leading Ivy Prep Academies, Cromartie made history at age 23, by becoming the first African American to serve in the Georgia legislature representing residents of one of Georgia's largest counties, Cobb County, Georgia. Cromartie was elected to six terms in the Georgia House of Representatives where she served on the Education, Appropriations and Health & Human Services Committees. During her tenure in the legislature, she coauthored the state's Teacher and Leader Evaluation System, and authored the state intra-district transfer law, allowing parents to choose the best public school within their district, regardless of zip code. She was a coauthor of the state's constitutional amendment that created the State Charter Schools Commission. She was also appointed by Former United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan to a bipartisan working group to address the need to reauthorize ESEA, as well as look at the nation's need to raise its academic standards.

Cromartie is a graduate of the Broad Superintendents Academy, an intense 18-month program that trains leaders to lead large urban school districts. An award-winning leader, Cromartie has been featured as a thought leader in several publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *CSPAN*, *Georgia Trend*, *Marie Claire*, *Ebony* and *Essence* magazines. She is a graduate of Spelman College with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Drama and holds a Master's of Education in Educational Leadership from Kennesaw State University. Cromartie is also a member of the 2017 Future Chiefs Cohort, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and an active board member of the Joseph & Evelyn Lowery Center for Human Rights Institute. She is the mother of a sixth-grade scholar in Cobb County schools, and recently married to retired Cobb County fire fighter Marcus Cromartie. She and her family reside in Cobb County, GA.