

BIO

Marty Lane Crawford was born in the western Texas town of Post to Dr. Marvin Alexander Crawford and Dorothy Marilyn Crawford. Both parents spent their professional careers in education, the father as a school superintendent and the mother as a reading teacher and reading specialist.

During his formative years, Crawford followed his educator parents to outstanding school districts across Texas. Diverse educational experiences in rural Lindale ISD, property wealthy Carthage ISD, and cosmopolitan Grand Prairie ISD, along with observations of his parent's success, propelled Crawford toward a career in educational leadership of Texas students long before his formal training.

Prior to his professional choice of leading learning organizations, Crawford attended Baylor University on an athletic scholarship. While at Baylor, Crawford was named to the All-Southwest Conference baseball team multiple times, receiving an All-American nod in 1996, while earning four letters and starting every game for the Bears as a student-athlete from 1993 to 1996. Upon completion of his Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Baylor in 1996, Crawford spent two years as a minor league baseball player with the Philadelphia Phillies baseball organization, earning all South Atlantic League all-star honors in 1997. As a result of his success while a collegiate athlete, Crawford was named a Baylor Baseball Legend in 2005, honored as sportswriter Dave Campbell's All-Time Baylor 2nd Baseman, and enshrined to the Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

Finally retiring from organized baseball in 1998, Crawford entered the education profession as a teacher and coach in Oklahoma City Public Schools and began his graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma. Since returning to Texas in 1998, Crawford spent one year as an elementary teacher and coach in Highland Park ISD and worked in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD from 1999 through 2003 as a history teacher and head baseball coach, also serving as an assistant football and track coach at Euless Trinity High School.

After finishing his Master of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma and obtaining Texas principal certification, Crawford moved to the Dallas Independent School District in 2003, where he served as Hillcrest High School principal from 2005 through December 2008. Crawford earned his Texas superintendent certification in 2004 from Texas A&M University-Commerce and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2006.

Superintendent of Schools for the West Independent School District, Crawford and his wife, the former Alanna Strickland, are proud parents of two children, Ashton Alayne, 12, and Jackson Layne, 7, calling West, TX their home.