Philip Reid Jepson received a BA in History in 1970 from Bryan College and an MA in Educational Administration from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in 1975. He taught in the elementary grades five years before beginning his career as an elementary and middle school principal twenty-four years ago. He currently serves as the principal in the middle school described in this study. His school administration experience has been in West Virginia and Virginia.

Jepson was a Virginia Urban Fellow in a 1992 summer program at the College of William and Mary. In 1995 he became certified to be an instructor for the Teacher Expectations and Student Achievement (TESA) program. He is involved with the University of Virginia in a national study determining the effects of differentiated instruction on student achievement.