

Superintendent Bios

J. Alvin Wilbanks

Gwinnett County Public Schools Superintendent

J. Alvin Wilbanks was named chief executive officer and superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools in March 1996. Previously, Wilbanks served concurrently as the district's assistant superintendent of human resources and continuous improvement and as president of Gwinnett Technical College, a role he held since the college's opening in 1984. Prior to his tenure in Gwinnett County, Wilbanks promoted technical and vocational education extensively across the country and abroad while with the Georgia Department of Education's Industrial Development Unit. He was also a teacher and administrator in DeKalb County Schools. As superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools, Wilbanks has advised two Georgia governors and the U. S. Secretary of Education on legislation, supported Georgia's successful bid for a Race to the Top grant in 2010, and was elected inaugural chairman of the Georgia Education Coalition, formed in 2006 to give school districts a unified voice with the state's Legislature on funding and educational policy issues. Wilbanks led Gwinnett County Public Schools to win The Broad Prize for Urban Education in 2010 after the district was a finalist in 2009. He has also been named 2005 Georgia Superintendent of the Year and was one of four finalists for 2005 National Superintendent of the Year. Wilbanks earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Georgia, and his education specialist degree from Georgia State University. For more information, please contact Sloan Roach, 678-301-6021, sloan_roach@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.

Barbara M. Jenkins, Ed.D.

Orange County Public Schools Superintendent

Barbara Jenkins was named superintendent of Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) in Orlando, Florida in 2012. Previously, she served as deputy superintendent—charged with overseeing five area superintendents and the division of teaching and learning—and as chief of staff to the superintendent, overseeing human resources, public relations, labor relations, strategic planning and serving as the chief negotiator for the district. From 1998 through 2005 she was the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina, where she was recognized for innovative strategies to increase equity among schools, including accelerated staffing strategies, teacher incentives and use of a balanced scorecard. Jenkins attended Orange County Public Schools as a student and began her education career in the district as a teacher. She has also been a senior director of elementary education, staff developer, and principal. She is a fellow of The Broad Academy and Florida's 2013 District Data Leader of the Year, and she serves on the boards of the United Arts of Central Florida, Winter Park Health Foundation, Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, University of Central Florida Education Leadership Advisory Council, YMCA of Central Florida, Central Florida Regional Commission on Homelessness, and Orange County Youth Mental Health Commission. Jenkins has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's of education in administration and supervision, and a doctorate of education, all from the University of Central Florida. For more information, please contact Katherine Marsh, 407-317-3458, Katherine.marsh@ocps.net.

Ronald Blocker
Orange County Public Schools Superintendent
2000-2012

Ronald Blocker served as Orange County Public Schools superintendent for 12 years before retiring in 2012. Under his leadership, the district received an ‘A’ grade by the Florida Department of Education for three consecutive years. Blocker was named the 2011 Florida Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District Superintendents, the 2010 District Reading Leader of the Year by the Florida Department of Education’s Just Read, Florida! Division, and in 2008 he was named the Florida Art Education Association’s Superintendent of the Year. In 2009, he was chosen by the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission to receive its Chairman’s Award, acknowledging his contribution to the economic success of the region. Blocker has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and specialist’s degrees in both educational leadership and counselor education, all from the University of Florida.