
2009 Finalist District Superintendents

Wanda Bamberg, Ed.D., Aldine Independent School District superintendent

Dr. Wanda Bamberg has 32 years of experience in the field of education -- 28 with the Aldine Independent School District. Bamberg began her teaching career in the Tuscaloosa County School District in Alabama, teaching middle and high school English. In 1982, Bamberg moved to the Houston area and joined Aldine, teaching middle school English and reading. She then served as the program director of middle school language arts before being promoted to director of curriculum and instruction for the entire district and then executive director of curriculum and instruction. Bamberg held the position of assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for six years—including two years during which Aldine was named a Broad Prize finalist—prior to being appointed superintendent in 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama, as well as supervision and mid-management certifications and a doctorate in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. *For more information, please contact Mike Keeney at 281-985-6213, mkeeney@aldine.k12.tx.us.*

Xavier De La Torre, Socorro Independent School District superintendent

Dr. De La Torre was named superintendent by the Socorro Board of Trustees in April 2009. Previously, De La Torre served for four years as associated superintendent for human resources in the Elk Grove Unified School District in Elk Grove, Calif., where he focused on the planning, recruitment, evaluation, compensation, compliance and retention of 3,200 certified employees and 2,400 classified employees. Prior to that, he served as associate superintendent for human resources in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District in Fairfield, Calif. He has six years experience as a high school principal, and two years experience as an assistant principal. De La Torre also taught social studies and Spanish and coached football and baseball teams. He has a bachelor's degree in social science from California State University, Chico, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of San Francisco, and a doctorate in education policy and administration from University of California, Davis. *For more information, please contact Vicki Icard-Hibbs at 915-937-0281, vicard@sisd.net.*

James F. Notter, Broward County Public Schools superintendent

James Notter has served as superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, the nation's sixth-largest public school district, since 2007. Notter began his career as an elementary and secondary school teacher for the Orleans Niagara Board of Cooperative Education Services in New York. He has served in public education for 37 years, including 27 years in administrative roles and 10 years as a classroom teacher in Western New York. Now in his 24th year with Broward County Public Schools, Notter has served in a variety of capacities, including north central area superintendent, deputy superintendent and chief of staff. Notter received his bachelor's degree in education from the University at Buffalo and his master's degree in administration from Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y. He completed postgraduate work at Florida International University and the University of Miami and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program for Organizational Leadership at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fla. *For more information, please contact Nadine Drew at 754-321-2300, Nadine.drew@browardschools.com.*

Christopher J. Steinhauser, Long Beach Unified School District superintendent

Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District, is a long-time Long Beach resident and 28-year veteran educator in the local schools. Steinhauser began his career as a teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School, followed by roles as a program facilitator and vice principal at other Long Beach schools. As a principal, he led Signal Hill Elementary School to high student achievement, earning the school the distinction as “the miracle on Walnut Avenue.” From 1993 to 1996, Steinhauser served as director of special projects services, and was an area superintendent from 1996 to 1999. He worked his way up to the position of deputy superintendent in 1999 before his unanimous appointment as superintendent in 2002. During his years as deputy superintendent, students in all major racial and ethnic groups throughout the district made unprecedented gains on rigorous state tests. Steinhauser, an alumnus of the Long Beach Unified School District, attended Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach, earning a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a master’s degree in educational administration. *For more information, please contact Chris Eftychiou at 562-997-8250, ceftychiou@lbusd.k12.ca.us.*

J. Alvin Wilbanks, Gwinnett County Public Schools Superintendent

J. Alvin Wilbanks was named chief executive officer and superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1996. At the time of his appointment, Wilbanks was serving as the school system’s assistant superintendent of human resources and continuous improvement. Concurrently, he held the position of president of Gwinnett Technical College, the largest technical institute in Georgia and a school he opened as its president in 1984. During his 12 years as president of Gwinnett Tech, Wilbanks also served as assistant superintendent for occupational and continuing education and as director of vocational and technical education for Gwinnett County Public Schools. His education career began in the DeKalb County School System in Georgia, where he served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal/director of the Occupational Education Center. He came to Gwinnett County from the Georgia Department of Education, where he was an administrator in the department’s Industrial Development Unit. Wilbanks was named 2005 Georgia Superintendent of the Year and was one of four finalists for the 2005 National Superintendent of the Year. He earned a bachelor’s and master’s of education degrees from the University of Georgia and an education specialist degree from Georgia State University. *For more information, please contact Sloan Roach at 678-301-6021, sloan_roach@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.*

###