



2010 Superintendent Bios

Peter C. Gorman, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent

Dr. Peter C. Gorman has been superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools since 2006. He previously served as superintendent of the Tustin Unified School District in California for five years. Gorman began his education career as a teacher in Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Fla., eventually serving as dean of students and as a middle school and high school assistant principal. After working as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction with Osceola County Public Schools and as a high school principal in Seminole County Public Schools, he returned to Orange County Public Schools, where he served in a variety of roles including area superintendent, chief information officer and chief operating officer for business and finance. Gorman has a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University, a master's in education and a doctorate in education from the University of Central Florida and an M.B.A. from Rollins College. He is a graduate of the 2004 class of The Broad Superintendents Academy. *For more information, please contact LaTazja Henry, 980-344-0009, l.henry@cms.k12.nc.us.*

Xavier De La Torre, Socorro Independent School District Superintendent

Dr. Xavier De La Torre was named superintendent by the Socorro board of trustees in April 2009. Previously, De La Torre served for four years as associate 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 Daniel Escobar at 915-937-0282, descob02@sisd.net.*

Jerry D. Weast, Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent

Dr. Jerry D. Weast has been superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools since his appointment 1999. He was reappointed in 2003 and 2007 and has announced that he will retire in June 2011. Weast has been a superintendent for 35 years, overseeing eight school districts in five states: Kansas, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and Maryland. In 2003, he was named Maryland Superintendent of the Year and was one of four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year. He also was North Carolina's Superintendent of the Year in 1998. Weast began his education career in 1969, teaching accounting and psychology in Kansas high schools before going on to become a principal at both the elementary and secondary levels. Weast has a bachelor's degree in business administration, a master's degree in administration and supervision and an Ed.S. in general administration from Pittsburgh State University in Kansas. He also has an Ed.D. in educational administration from Oklahoma State University. *For more information, please contact Dana Tofig, 301-279-3853, dana_tofig@mcpsmd.org.*

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 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.*

Michael Zolkoski, Ysleta Independent School District Superintendent

Dr. Michael Zolkoski has served as superintendent of the Ysleta Independent School District since March 2009. Since 1985, he has served as superintendent in eight districts in three states: Tulsa Public Schools in Oklahoma, Lafayette Parish School Board in Louisiana, and the Brownsville Independent School District, Judson Independent School District in San Antonio, Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, New Caney Independent School District and Pearsall Independent School District, all in Texas. He has also taught classes in educational administration, math and school finance at universities and colleges in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. Zolkoski has bachelor's and master's degrees from Southwest Texas State University, a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Texas at Austin and an Ed.D. in educational administration from California Coast University. *For more information, please contact Patricia Ayala at 915-434-0693, payala@yisd.net.*

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