

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona became the 12th U.S. Secretary of Education after a distinguished career as an elementary school teacher, principal, district administrator, and Connecticut education commissioner. He is a firm believer that being an educator isn't only a job – it's an extension of your life's purpose.

Secretary Cardona's focus throughout his career on raising the bar for equity and excellence for all learners guides his leadership of the agency in service of the nation's 65 million students and their families. Secretary Cardona oversaw efforts to safely reopen schools for in-person learning, going from only 46% of school buildings open when President Biden took office to nearly 100% open just nine months later, while distributing over \$130 billion in federal education funding for P-12 schools and \$40 billion for colleges; working to increase higher education access, affordability, and student success; and leading unprecedented federal efforts to transform the country's student loan system. Across all of these priorities, Secretary Cardona has highlighted the urgency of seizing the moment through intentional collaboration – and the opportunity we have not only to recover from the pandemic, but to reimagine a more equitable education system that works better for all.