

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent



Topeka Public Schools USD 501

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, a long-time Kansas resident, has been a public-school educator for over 26 years, with most of that time as superintendent. Dr. Anderson has been nationally recognized as one of [Education Week's 16 Leaders to Learn From](#). She has improved achievement and closed achievement gaps for students of poverty in rural, urban and suburban public-school districts. In 2016 she became the first African-American female superintendent of [Topeka Public Schools](#), in Topeka, Kansas.

In 2019, the Governor appointed Dr. Anderson to the Postsecondary Technical Authority as part of the Board of Regents and in 2020 Governor Kelly also appointed Dr. Anderson to co-chair the Commission on Racial Equity and Justice. Since Dr. Anderson arrived in Topeka, the district has earned three national Magna Awards, one of which is for their work in equity. Dr. Anderson serves on numerous boards in Topeka which include the Topeka Community Foundation, Rotary and The Greater Topeka Partnership. Prior to Kansas, as superintendent, Dr. Anderson led Montgomery County School District in Virginia and Jennings School District to full accreditation resulting in recognition from the Governor in the respective states. Since leading Topeka, ACT participation has increased, numerous new programs and schools have opened, academic performance has increased and partnerships offering expanded exposure to careers and college courses have increased. Dr. Anderson is a fierce advocate for equity.

There are several [documentaries](#) and articles that have been produced about Dr. Anderson's leadership, and the [Washington Post](#) referred to her as, "The Woman who made schools work for the poor." Dr. Anderson earned her undergraduate degree, and later her doctorate, from Saint Louis University in 2001. Dr. Anderson received her second doctorate, the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Eden Theological Seminary, for her service to community and society and her Masters in Divinity will be completed in 2021 at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Dr. Anderson has served as adjunct faculty at various universities in Missouri and she is adjunct faculty for ASCD (Association for Schools and Curriculum Development). Some of the recognitions Dr. Anderson has received include the Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteerism from President Obama; the Salute to Excellence for Women awarded by the Urban League; the Stellar Performance Award by the St. Louis American, the 2020 Kansas Icon in Education by Ingram, and she was honored at the 2017 Oscars for the People with Purpose Award.

Tiffany Chané Anderson



Professional Objective: To eliminate generational poverty and improve healthcare and education in underserved communities.

Education:

Doctorate in Education Leadership, May, 2001

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Dissertation Research Title: The Leadership Styles of Effective Beginning Principals: Transformational or Transactional?

Doctor of Humane Letters, May, 2016

Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

Masters in Education Leadership, June, 1996

University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

Bachelors in Elementary Education, May, 1994

Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Licenses

Missouri and Virginia Superintendent

Missouri Advanced Principal

Missouri Elementary Teaching

Kansas Building Leadership PRK-12

Kansas District Leadership PRK-12

Kansas Elementary Education K-6

Career Related Work Experience:

Superintendent & Chief Academic Officer (2005-Present)

Topeka Public Schools District, Topeka, Kansas (2016-Present)

- Implemented and provides oversight to programs and partnerships focused on improving health outcomes
- Developed and implemented a college prep academy which allows students to complete two years of college while in high school
- Developed and implemented a five year strategic plan focused on college, career and early childhood services, with work beginning on the next five year strategic plan
- Expanded full day preschool in every elementary school and opened an early childhood center
- Supervise principals, counselors, equity councils and leadership academies
- Revised and implemented a PreK-12 curriculum
- Provide leadership to 13,200 students and 2,500 staff members in a PreK-12 public school district
- Manages a 200 million dollar budget and capital projects

Jennings School District, St. Louis, MO (2012-2016)

- Eliminated 2 million dollar deficit prior to joining the district and ensured the district has a balanced 29 million dollar budget with surpluses and increased fund balances in reserve of 7.8 million dollars
- Led a once unaccredited district to full accreditation
- Served as the professional development director and provided instructional supervision to multiple supervisors
- Provided leadership to 3,000 students and 300 staff in a PreK-12 public school district

- Implemented strategic planning and a school improvement process resulting in exceeding Missouri accreditation benchmark standards
- Expanded collaborative initiatives with universities, investors and community agencies resulting in a 92% and implementation of a school based clinic and school homeless shelter

University Academy and Kansas City Public Schools, Kansas City, MO (2009-2012)

- Served as Chief Academic Officer overseeing curriculum and instruction
- Ensured the district had a balanced budget and served as the district's development and admissions officer
- Implemented a strategic school improvement process that led the district to become accredited with distinction
- Expanded collaborative initiatives with universities and community agencies, which resulted in expanding a dental clinic and school based hospital
- Coordinated community education programs and college and career programs that resulted in 100% college acceptance and a 100% 4 year graduation rate

Montgomery County Public School District, Christiansburg, VA (2005-2009)

- Ensured the district had a balanced budget of 100 million
- Led district accreditation team resulting in national and state accreditation
- Expanded collaborative initiatives, investors, and community agencies and implemented a 501c3 foundation for investors
- Served as the public relations officer for 23 schools and alternative programs
- Supervised and managed education services for the Virginia Regional Juvenile Detention Program and alternative schools
- Led the regional Crises and Threat Assessment Teams through the Virginia Tech shooting crises

Assistant Superintendent (2003-2005)

Rockwood School District, Eureka, Missouri

- Provided district diversity training and implemented strategies to close the achievement gap and improve equity in education for 23,000 students
- Supervised community education and homeless programs
- FERPA and civil rights compliance monitor
- Directed the desegregation program, and ensured compliance with state laws

Elementary Principal (1998-2003)

St. Louis Public Schools, Clark Accelerated Academy, St. Louis, Missouri

- Provided leadership as the principal at Clark Accelerated Academy, a school with 100% free lunch African American students
- Acted as the lead principal for 30 elementary schools in St. Louis City
- Developed a site based school budget, and managed school fiscal responsibilities
- Implemented and managed a school based family literacy program

Elementary Teacher (1994-1998)

Kirkwood School District, Robinson Elementary, St. Louis, Missouri (1995-1998)

Riverview Gardens School District, Lemasters Elementary, St. Louis, Missouri (1994-1995)

- Instructed elementary students in grades three, four, and five
- Led instructional improvements in elementary grades
- Tutored and acted as Lead Teacher for the grade level

Other Professional Adjunct Experience:

Adjunct Professor (2003-Present)

Professor of Practice in the Department of Educational Leadership for Kanas State University

- Train school districts and organizations in Kansas in areas impacting K-12 institutions

National Poverty Trainer and Adjunct Faculty for ASCD

- Train school districts and organizations nationally in social justice and in effectively addressing poverty in schools to ensure improved performance

St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri (2002- Present)

- Lead graduate course entitled: EDA-1563-01, The Principalship, and serve as visiting practitioner

University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City, & University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri (2012- 2016)

- Instructed graduate course entitled: EDCI-5562, Social Justice and Equity
- Taught classroom teachers and aspiring leaders instructional practices that support **social** justice and equity in the urban classroom

Radford University, Radford, Virginia (2005-2009)

- Instructed graduate course entitled: EDA-626.02, School and Community Relations

Current Board Service:

- Kansas Governor's Appointed Co-Chair for the Commission of Racial Equity and Justice
- Kansas Governor's Appointed Member of the Post-Secondary Technical Authority for the Board of Regents
- National Alumni Board for Saint Louis University
- Topeka Community Foundation
- Boy Scouts of America -Jayhawk Area Council
- Greater Topeka Partnership
- National Federation of Urban and Suburban School Districts (NFUSSD)
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Council

Memberships

- Topeka Rotary
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Lifetime Member
- American Association for School Administrators
- ASCD
- National School Board Association

Publications and Multimedia:

- [Culturally Restorative Practices and the Brain. UMKC-RPDC. 2018](#)
- How an Underrepresented School District Meets Students' Needs so They Can Excel. [National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities. 2016](#)
- AlJazeera International News Interview: Changing Students' Lives 2016
- [Fostering Literacy for all Students. Scholastic. 2016](#)
- [National Public Radio: A Discussion with Dr. Tiffany Anderson 2016](#)
- Improving Schools by Improving Communities. [District Administration. 2015.](#)
- High Performing High Minority Elementary Schools. In Motion Magazine Published 2004
- "Don't Count Me Out" ASCD Documentary. 2016
- Road Tested: Three Ways to Engage High Poverty Parents. [ASCD Publication. 2014.](#)
- Transforming Schools for Excellence: Closing the Achievement Gap and Increasing Accountability. [Outskirts Press. 2012.](#)
- Closing the Achievement Gap: Reaching and Teaching High Poverty Learners. [Universe Publications. 2006.](#)
- High Performing High Minority Elementary Schools: Where are they located and what do they have in common? [In Motion Magazine. 2004.](#)
- Leadership Styles of Beginning Principals: Transformational or Transactional? [UMI Dissertation Services. 2001.](#)
- Closing the Achievement Gap. [A-Magazine. 1998.](#)