

STEPHANIE N. JONES, PH.D.

Overview

A dedicated and innovative education executive with more than a decade of experience in educational administration. Oversee and direct all schools within one of the country's biggest school districts; create innovative programs to continuously improve operations and bolster student learning experience. Coordinate with both State, City and local organizations to develop positive partnerships between schools and communities. Seeking to utilize educational expertise and commitment to excellence in a new superintendent position within a progressive organization.

EDUCATION

- PhD** Capella University, Leadership in Educational Administration August 2014
Dissertation: *"Association of Professional Learning Communities, Collective Efficacy, and Job Satisfaction among Teachers"*
Committee: Jackson Beazley (chair), S. Slater, P. Robinson, F. Williamson
- MS** Lewis University, Special Education December 2008
Thesis: *"The Impact of Parent Involvement on Student Homework Return Rate"*
Advisor: Theresa Nolan
- BS** Lewis University, Psychology December 2004

EXPERIENCE

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CPS), Chicago, IL
Chief Officer, *Office of Diverse Learner Supports & Services*

August 2019 to Present

Responsible for oversight, direction and administration of CPS, the third largest district in the country. Coordinate operations for more than 175 central office employees, 12,000 school team employees, 355,000 students (70,000+ with disabilities) in 642 schools (479 elementary schools and 163 high schools) with a \$2 B operating budget.

- Build and support structures and systems across CPS to continuously improve student learning experiences.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with the various school offices, creating a “convergence” of systems and programs; generated equity between schools within CPS through program implementation and comprehensive partnership efforts.
- Regularly debrief with the Mayor of Chicago, Chief Education Officer of CPS, the Chicago Board of Education and various central office administrators to maintain transparency and collaborate on program innovations.
- Conduct monthly and bi-monthly meetings with community-based organizations that strengthen relationships with various Chicago communities.
- Facilitated complete overhaul of educational operations during the COVID-19 pandemic; orchestrated restructuring of curricula, virtual classroom management and additional co-teaching training.

Highlights ◇ *Met with cross-collaborative team to plan new reengagements and initiatives and launch school district opening by August 30, 2021.*

◇ *Implemented initiatives to improve regulatory compliance in both evaluations and annual reviews during the COVID-19 pandemic; and as a result the district increased from less than 10% compliance in September of SY 21, to 93% compliance by June SY 22.*

SOUTH HOLLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT, South Holland, IL
Director of Special Education, *Specialized Service*

June 2014 to August 2019

Responsible for restructuring and designing special education programming for this south suburban Chicagoland school district. Devised and implemented a special education program focused on students placed in therapeutic settings, supporting all students with disabilities. Developed and maintained relationships with outside agencies to supplement and support district staff.

- Restructured district special education program, incorporating comprehensive special education services including inclusive special education services, classes and instruction such as the co-teaching Marilyn Friend Model.
- Integrated MTSS and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to ensure smooth operations and optimize teaching procedures across the district.

- Trained staff, teachers, administrators and parents on best practices in special education, IEP development, crisis intervention, differentiating, curriculum development, behavior intervention, instructional strategies and MTSS; developed teams to support these various systems.
- Developed special education and student health policies and procedures including special education procedure and crisis manuals, EpiPen and student medication administration policies as well as evaluation frameworks for social worker, psychologist and speech pathologist positions.
- Publicly addressed parent questions and concerns, restoring trust within the community.

Highlights

- *Maintained 100% IEP compliance for 3 years; district previously maintained 50% compliance prior to special education restructuring.*
- *Saved district more than \$1.6M every year (reducing spending from \$2.4M to less than \$800,000 annually) through restructuring the special education program.*
- *Returned more than \$500,000 to district from unclaimed Medicare funds.*
- *Directly hired ancillary staff members, saving \$550,000 through streamlined hiring operations.*

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CPS), Chicago, IL August 2009 to June 2014
Special Education Teacher/Case Manager/Department Head,
Carver Military Academy High School, (2012 to 2014)
Air Force Academy High School, (2009 to 2012)

- Taught 95% of instructional classes during employment at both schools; critical in developing school goals and improvement plans.
- Developed, planned, budgeted and led school-wide ACT preparation, after-school and Saturday programs in both schools to support students with subject area failures.
 - Trained staff and administrators on complying with Federal, State and local special education laws, policies, procedures and regulations.
 - Educated administrators and staff on best practices in curriculum development, data interpretation and progress monitoring.

Highlights

- *Developed an essential multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) for both schools 50% down to less than 5% within one academic quarter.*
- *Developed after-school/Saturday programs reduced student subject area failures from more than 50% down to less than 5% within one academic quarter.*
- *Programs improved ACT scores from 2% to 10% for 100% of the students that participated*

Child Welfare Licensing Coordinator, *Children and Family Services*

Responsible for monitoring and supervising children in foster home placement as well as during parent/child visits; established and maintained relationships with community partners to assist families in need.

- Supervised child welfare case managers and licensing representatives to ensure compliance with Federal, State and local regulations across all operations.
 - Investigated foster home violations, documenting evidence and testimonies; integral in enacting corrective actions.
 - Trained and educated foster families on ethics, cultures, and emotional support for children, creating the best possible living conditions for children and parents alike.
- Highlights

Highlights

- *Maintained a 100% compliance rate with all Federal, State and local regulations.*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- HWC-Executive Leadership Institute
 - “Aspiring Superintendent Summer Institute”
- South Cook Intermediate Service Center 4 (ISC4)
 - “Interpersonal and Team Communication Skills for School Administrators”
 - “Developing The Leaders Around You”
 - “McKinney-Vento”
 - “Conflict Resolution”
 - “Balancing Change Leadership”

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- MEMBERSHIPS:**
- Illinois Alliance of Administration of Special Education
 - Illinois Association of School Administrators
 - National Alliance of Black School Educators
 - Council for Exceptional Children

- COMMITTEE:**
- Illinois State Advisory Council for Governor Pritzker on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC)
 - Advisory Council Member
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TECHNOLOGY:

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- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, Outlook, CPS Dashboard, Aspen Student Information System, Oracle Hyperion Planning, DocuSign, Smart sheets and various proprietary educational software.
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CERTIFICATIONS:

- Illinois State Board of Education
 - Superintendent Endorsement
 - Director of Special Education Endorsement
 - Learning Behavioral Specialist I Endorsement
 - General Administrative Endorsement
 - Special Education Type 10 Certification
 - Principal Evaluator
 - Teacher Evaluator
 - Crisis Physical Intervention Instructor