

STATE OF MINNESOTA



MARK DAYTON  
GOVERNOR

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Brenda L. Cassellus**

5900 Colfax Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419  
County of Hennepin  
Congressional District 5

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

**COMMISSIONER**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Effective: January 6, 2015  
Term Expires: January 7, 2019

**RECEIVED**

**JAN - 6 2015**

**President of the Senate**

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the Veterans Service Building in the City of Saint Paul, December 31, 2014.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Reappointment

# DR. BRENDA CASSELLIUS

---

## EDUCATION

---

- Ed. D, Leadership and Policy, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, August 2007
- Education Specialist, Secondary Administration, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 1995
- Masters of Arts Secondary Education, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 1991
- Bachelors of Arts, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1989
- Minnesota Teacher Endorsement, University of St. Thomas, 1991
- Minnesota Secondary Principal Endorsement, University of St. Thomas, 1995
- Minnesota Superintendent Endorsement, University of St. Thomas, 2007
- Tennessee Administrator Certification, 2004
- Harvard Public Education Leadership Project (PELP), 2004/2006/2009
- Harvard Leadership, Transforming High Schools for Instruction, 2008

## EXPERIENCE

---

### **Commissioner of Education**

State of Minnesota

2011- present

- Responsible for 837,000 students in the State of Minnesota
- Lead state and national policy development
- Oversee a 18 billion dollar biennial budget
- Oversee administration of state department of education
- Oversee state academic standards, school support, assessment and accountability
- Expanded all-day kindergarten to all Minnesota schools
- Expanded Preschool to children statewide
- Highest graduation rates in over a decade
- MN 4<sup>th</sup> graders moved from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in nation in Reading on NAEP
- MN 4<sup>th</sup> graders are 1<sup>st</sup> in nation in mathematics on NAEP
- MN seniors are 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation on ACT for 9 years running
- Secured federal Race to the Top grant for 45 million
- Secured and implemented No Child Left Behind Waiver

RECEIVED

JAN - 6 2015

President of the Senate

### **Superintendent of Schools**

East Metro Integration District, Maplewood, Minnesota

2010- 2011

- Responsible for two magnet schools
- Lead ten school district superintendents around equity vision
- Oversee Integration Revenue Program
- Steward the public fiscal resources to get better outcomes for children
- Provide strategic direction to the organization and lead effectively
- Partner with business and philanthropic community
- Inspire and support teachers and others to be their absolute best for children

### **Associate Superintendent Secondary Schools**

Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis, Minnesota

2007- present

- Responsible for the middle and high school reform agendas
- Supervise all secondary schools and principal performance
- Developed in collaboration with leadership team a principal evaluation
- Oversee Career and Technical Education programming
- Supervise and lead the district K-12 counseling services
- Supervise Contract Alternative and Extended Learning Office
- Coordinated first-ever charter / public high school partnership
- Expanded MPS Scholars early college programming with higher education partners
- Oversee leadership of International Baccalaureate Programs K-12 and AVID 6-12
- Turned around two high schools through fresh start- Washburn and Edison High Schools

RECEIVED

JAN - 6 2015

President of the Senate

### **Middle School Academic Superintendent**

Memphis City Schools, Memphis, TN

2004- 2007

- Responsible for the academic performance of thirty-two middle schools, directly supervise principals and achievement of 22,000 middle school children
- Organized and led district-wide Blue Ribbon Behavior Initiative K-12
- Organized and led reconstitution (fresh start initiative) of seven schools
- 18.7% increase reading in TCAP on achievement scores for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in middle schools from 2003 – 2007 and 10.1% in mathematics
- Closed achievements gaps substantially in both reading and math (8<sup>th</sup> Reading and Mathematics by 13% and 11.2% respectively- 2003 -2007)
- Organized and led the district's federal strategic planning and application process 2004, securing \$41 million dollar budget on time
- As a member of the Superintendent's Executive Leadership Team, completed a five-year academic, facility and transportation plan
- Secured several key community, business and university partnerships that have accelerated middle school student achievement (see grants section below)

**Minneapolis Public Schools, Assistant Principal** 1999 - 2004  
Minneapolis, MN

- In 2003 graduation rates improved to highest in the district
- Organized and led high school reform, small learning communities
- Brought school into special education compliance
- Strengthened community confidence through relationships and collaboration
- Improved systems of shared decision making among staff and parents
- Promoted school through academic excellence marketing campaign
- Served on district principal staff development team
- Served on district interest based teacher negotiation team
- Nominated Assistant principal of the year

**St. Paul Public Schools, Assistant Principal** 1995 - 1999  
St. Paul, MN

- Led middle school reform from junior high to middle school model
- Instituted teacher leadership model
- Implemented interdisciplinary teaming

**Social Studies Teacher / Diversity Coordinator** 1993 - 1995  
Burnsville Public School, Burnsville, MN

- Led district-wide diversity initiative
- Created student-led Improve Troup focused on issues of diversity
- Served on school leadership team

**Social Studies Teacher** 1991 - 1993  
St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN

- Served on school leadership team
- Middle school team leader
- Principal of summer school for African-American youth

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

- Chair/Co-Chair Minnesota P20 Council (2011 – present)
- Board of Directors Member, Council for Chief State School Officers (2013 – present)
- Board of Directors Member, Junior Achievement Upper Midwest Region (2011)
- National Association of Secondary School Principals (1995-2011)
- National Middle School Association, Leadership Faculty Member (2005 – 2009)

**RECEIVED**

**JAN - 6 2015**

## **GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS AND AWARDS**

**President of the Senate**

- Finalist, Twin Cities Woman of the Year, 2008
- Striving Readers Grant, Partnership, University of Memphis (\$16.5 million)
- Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Partnership, University of Memphis (\$3.2 million)
- Bridges to Quality, Federal Appropriation, (\$480,000)
- Facing History and Ourselves, Assisi Foundation, (\$580,000)
- Distinguished African-American Woman Educator, AKA Sorority, 2006
- Assistant Principal of the Year Nominee, Minneapolis Public Schools, 2003

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- Doctoral Cohort Leadership and Team Training, San Diego State University, 2009 - 2013
- *No Time to Waste: Prioritizing Actions for Middle Grades Success*, Speaker, May 27, 2009
- Sable Leadership Institute, Presenter, Atlanta, Georgia, January 10, 2009
- National Middle School Association, Faculty Member, *Institute for Middle Level Leadership*, July 2008 and July 2009
- University of Minnesota Urban Leadership Conference, *Maximizing our potential for excellence and equity*, March 2008
- Middle School Journal, *Using Relationship, Responsibility and Respect to Get from "Good to Great" in Memphis Middle Schools*, May 2006
- NMSA Policy Guide, *Success in the Middle*, National Press Club, Washington DC, 2006
- ABC World News Tonight, *Caught in the Middle*, September 2006
- On-line Team Assessment, *Team Trek Team Profile (TTLP)*, 2005
- Blue Ribbon Behavior Summit, Lead Organizer- June 2005
- Tennessee State Urban Schools Conference, *Moving from Good to Great in Memphis*, 2006

**RECEIVED**

**JAN - 6 2015**

**President of the Senate**