

Dr. Romules Durant

CEO/Superintendent Toledo Public Schools

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Toledo, OH 43604

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Education

Doctorate of Education:

Administration & Supervision—2007
University of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio

Master of Education:

Administration & Supervision—2002
University of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts:

Elementary Education—1998
University of Toledo
Toledo, Ohio

Licenses & Certifications

Ohio, Elementary Education (1-8)

Ohio, Superintendent License

Change Processes inside the
Organization certificate (WCEI
facilitation)

Child Abuse and Neglect workshop
certificate

Certified by the Human Subjects
Research

American Red Cross First Aid and
CPR training

Educational Journals

Buckeye Association of School
Administrators (BASA)

Educational Administration Quarterly

Education Week

District Administration

American School & University

Scholastic Administrator

Educational Leadership (EL)

PEW Center on the States

e School News

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Celebrating 10 years as CEO/Superintendent for Toledo Public Schools. Highly motivated, results-oriented leader who develops strategic alliances with community leaders to gain support for key initiatives. Aims to oversee a team committed to quality performance. Offers outstanding cross-cultural team management, communication and presentation skills. Visionary executive with solid experience managing all levels of multiple projects including administration and budgeting.

CORE STRENGTHS & SKILLS

Visionary leader

Sound fiscal management

Data-driven decisions

Strong employee relations

Enhances academic achievement to compete in global society

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CEO/Superintendent

December, 2013 to Present

Toledo Public Schools - Toledo, OH

Currently overseeing the operations for the fifth largest urban school district in Ohio and the sixth largest employer in the City of Toledo with more than 4,000 employees. The district has an operating budget of \$340 million and another \$250 million in grant-funded programs.

2022-23 School Year Successes and Initiatives

- Opened the district's newest magnet school, the Toledo Pre-Medical and Health Science Academy. The curriculum focuses on biomedical science, pre-medicine, pre-nursing and other health science fields. Upon graduation, students can begin an entry-level career in the medical field or choose to attend college and further their education.
- Toledo Early College and Toledo Technology Academy were named as the number one and number two best magnet schools in Ohio by Niche, an online service that connects students with the schools that best meet their interests and future goals.
- Opened two new Boys and Girls Clubs in key elementary schools with the goal of providing students with after school enrichment opportunities.
- Celebrated the first year of the Early Head Start pilot program that provides care services for teen moms who are continuing to attend high school and graduate with a four year degree.
- Formal announcement of additional magnet schools including an Educator Academy and Construction Academy; future thematic schools include maritime studies and the performing arts.
- Current graduation rates per Ohio Department of Education: Four-year rate is 82.3% and five-year rate is 85.1%, one of the highest rates TPS has ever seen. Fifty-five percent of the Class of 2022 from Toledo Early College earned an Associate's Degree from the University of Toledo while earning their high school diploma.
- Opened the final two full-service, school-based health clinics that provide healthcare needs for students, staff members and families. There are now six fully staffed clinics across the district.

2021-22 School Year Successes

- Received \$500,000 grant from the Landman-Goldman Foundation to purchase a mobile dental van that will service 2,000 preschool students yearly. An additional \$200,000 from Landman-Goldman will support future early childhood initiatives.
- Secured \$350,000 in funding to open a Bloomberg Financial Lab at Jones Leadership Academy of Business, one of the district's five magnet high schools. Only the second lab of it's kind in the country, this state-of-the-art technology will prepare students for careers in financial planning, investments and banking.
- Announced a new electronic vehicle and auto mechanic program at Toledo Technology Academy thanks to \$1.25 million in federal funds from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

Board Memberships

Tutor Smart

Coalition of Advocates for Prek-12 Education (CAPE)

Northwest Ohio Association of School Leaders

Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Ohio

Toledo Museum of Art

Imagination Station

National Museum of the Great Lakes

Landman-Goldman Foundation

HOPE Toledo

Founding member of the 22nd Century Committee, a private-public partnership of business, education, government and labor leaders in northwest Ohio who are focused on revitalization and growth

Three-year term on the University of Toledo Alumni Association Board of Trustees (appointed in 2015)

Board of Directors of the Council of the Great City Schools

Executive Board of the Ohio 8 Coalition

Executive Board Member of Aspire (Strive Network)

Executive Board of the United Way of Greater Toledo

Co-chair, along with the president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers union, of the Intern Board of Review (IBOR), which manages the review process for first year teachers as well as poor performing senior teachers

Board of Trustees of the YMCA and JCC of Greater Toledo

Longstanding member of the National Principal Leadership Institute, working in New York with administrators from across the country

- Improved the district's bond rating to A+ status during tumultuous economic times. The Treasurer's Division received the state auditor award for the third time in four years for completing audits with zero findings.
- Celebrated the TPS Foundation's first successful major gift campaign with a goal to raise \$1.5 million. Upon becoming Superintendent, I recruited a strong group of community leaders to revitalize the once defunct Foundation and make it more focused and successful.
- Introduced the Three Rs Plan—The Restart—Refocus— Plan which is focused on school safety, student discipline and accountability. Community partners overwhelmingly rallied around the initiative to support our district and ensure our students are safe at school.

Other Initiatives and Successes

- Received additional an \$1.2 million in federal funds to expand Head Start program for the 2021-22 school year; hired 25 additional staff, opened 7 more classrooms and admitted 119 new students.
- Supported students and families during the coronavirus pandemic. Closed schools as a safety measure and pivoted to 100% online learning. Established innovative ways to serve students while removing barriers to learning, including parking WiFi equipped buses in underserved areas so students could connect to the internet, distributed 8,000 Chromebooks to students who had no access to technology at home and then leveraged partnerships to provide internet access to those families and provided thousands of 'grab and go meals' for students.
- Celebrated Planet Fitness donating \$1 million worth of gym equipment to two TPS high schools for both students and staff members to utilize.
- Nominated a long-time social studies teacher at Toledo Early College High School, as a candidate for Teacher of the Year. Ms. Mona Al-Hayani was announced as Ohio's Teacher of the Year for 2019— she is the first teacher in northwest Ohio to hold this honor since 1966.
- Reinstated high school athletics which resulted in the first back-to-back state basketball championship for a girls varsity basketball; 2018 and 2019 Rogers High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team.
- Received \$1.2 million in federal funds and \$700,000 in state grants as part of the expansion of the district's Pre-K offerings, made possible through the ongoing implementation of an \$8.1 million federal grant to oversee the operations of a majority of the Head Start program in Lucas County.
- Acquired a \$350,000 grant from the National Football League Foundation to install professional-grade turf at two high schools for the 2018-2019 football season.

ACADEMIC & CAREER TECHNOLOGY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secured a partnership with Delta Airlines to provide educational support to the district's Aerospace program with workforce development for students and technical and classroom support to staff; TPS is the first high school aeronautics program the airline has adopted.
- Converted a local charter school to a TPS magnet school—Escuela SMART Academy.
- Developed 12 associate degree tracks for Business, Art, Applied Science/Engineering and Aviation in collaboration with local and regional colleges and universities.
- Expanded the district's offerings for students interested in getting a head start on college, through Early High School Opportunity and College Credit Plus programs.
- Implemented the plan to expand the use of Distance Learning Labs in all high schools, as well as the expansion of the Gifted Program for 5th through 12th grades.
- Program growth and revamping in Career Technology resulted in an increase of \$1.5 million in state funding (to \$3.8 million a year) because of course alignment and proper data coding. New programs included Supply Chain Management, Diesel Engineering, Business classes and additional Natural Science offerings. Also fostering a partnership with NASA.
- Through the expansion of Naviance, the national college and career readiness software, students in grade school start exploring career pathways, which led to the introduction of Career Technology offerings to 7th and 8th grade students.

Accolades and Awards

2023

Black Kings Collective Honoree—
Junteenth Toledo

2022

Inducted into the City League Hall
of Fame

Statewide finalist for the
Jennings *Ohio Outstanding
Superintendent Performance
Award*

2021

Compassionate Heroes Award
from the MultiFaith
Compassionate Council of Toledo

2020

Touchstone Contributor Award
The Press Club of Toledo

2019

Buckeye Association of School
Administrators Exemplary
Leadership Award for Region 1

2018

United Way CEO Hall of Fame
Inductee

2017

Nominee for a Touchstone Award
from The Press Club of Toledo in
the Contributor category

The Unsung Hero Award from
BCSN

Named Toledo's Guidance
Counselor by the *Toledo City Pa-
per*

2016

Community Education Service
Award ~ the Spirit of Truth Gospel
Singers

2015

Grand Marshal of The Blade's
Holiday Parade and of the 44th
Annual Old West End Festival King
Wamba Parade

Alumnus of the Year Award from
UT's Judith Herb College of
Education

Community Role Model of the Year
(and runner-up for Best Dressed)
by the *Toledo City
Paper*

OSBA Team Leadership Award

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

- Spearheaded the winning campaign in 2018 for two renewal levies; a 5-year, 6.8 operational levy and a 10-year operational levy. Both passed with a nearly 3-to-1 margin of approval. In 2014, oversaw the passage of a \$13.1 million operating levy – the first new money the district received in 13 years. This funding restored busing for all students who live more than one mile from their home school.
- Proper data coding of kindergarten students, graduates and other subgroups, resulting in increased state funding of \$1.2 million.
- Spearheaded the move of the administration operations and offices to a renovated, energy efficient headquarters near downtown Toledo that represents \$250,000 a year in savings.
- Instituted a number of cost saving measures, including conversion of the district's payroll system to SunGard, an advanced data-management system.
- Garnered a SOAR Award from Battelle for Kids for significant progress across the district for two consecutive years.
- Implemented an Evergreen Performance Audit which led to the implementation of a comprehensive, multi-year Strategic Plan where the audit goals are imbedded.
- Became the first large school district (and the second in Ohio) to implement the state treasurer's online Checkbook Program that fosters full transparency to the community related to district finances.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS—OUTREACH EFFORTS—GRANTS

- Worked to secure a partnership with entrepreneur and former Toledoan who pledged to pay for college tuition to all Scott High School seniors - and their parents and guardians. Helped to organize HOPE Toledo the foundation that will oversee the fund.
- Secured funding from PNC Bank to support additional support efforts for students and families served by the district's Early Childhood program. To date, more than \$500,000 has been donated to support health, wellness and readiness initiatives.
- Secured a grant from the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils for the installation of a fitness center – with \$100,000 in new gym equipment – at Glendale-Feilbach Elementary, one of only three schools in Ohio to receive the grant.
- Receiving and implementing \$325,000 in grants – Fuel Up for 60, Action for Healthy Kids and the Fruit/Vegetable grant – focused on encouraging students be more active and to eat healthy.
- Oversaw the partnership with Buckeye Broadband, a local cable and internet provider, that offered free Wi-Fi to high school students taking classes at the University of Toledo; nearly 200 students were enrolled at UT for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Expanded the network of community stakeholders to include new partnerships with First Federal Bank, Medical Mutual, Huntington Bank, the Port Authority, Chamber of Commerce and the Toledo Community Foundation.
- Continuing a partnership with ProMedica, a preeminent health system providing quality health care services to 27 counties in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, that has resulted in the hiring of full-time nurses for all district schools.
- Establishing and building upon the 'Holy Toledo' initiative, which partners faith-based organizations with schools.
- Working collaboratively with the Area Office on Aging on initiatives for senior citizens, including the annual Senior Prom that draws more than 400 guests, wellness-focused Hall Walks at district high schools and the Senior Reading Buddy program.

2015—cont.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award ~ Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter

Excellence in Leadership Award from the Ohio School Boards Association

2014

President's Award from the Area Office on Aging for efforts on behalf of senior citizens

2013

Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club's Community Image Award

Student African American Brotherhood District Chapter of the Year Award

Outstanding SAAB Coordinator Award

Student African American Brotherhood District Chapter of the Year Award

Outstanding SAAB Coordinator Award

2012

Calla Lily Educator's Award from the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Leadership award from 20 Under 40 Toledo

SAAB District Chapter of the Year Award

Youth Award from the Toledo Branch of the NAACP

2011

Freedom Fund Award from the Toledo branch of the NAACP

2010

Inducted into the Morrison R. Waite Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

Emerging Leader Award from the African American Legacy Project

2009

Inducted into the Morrison R. Waite Athletic Hall of Fame

2008 & 2007

Two-time nominee for the award given by 20 Under 40 Toledo

Interim Superintendent**August, 2013 to December, 2013****Toledo Public Schools - Toledo, OH**

Led the district's successful levy campaign for a 6.5 mill, five-year tax renewal

Assistant Superintendent**August, 2008 to August, 2013****Toledo Public Schools - Toledo, OH**

- Immediate supervisor of three learning communities (26 schools) along with all Race to the Top schools (RttT) and School Improvement Schools (SIG).
- Responsible for staffing, using both general funds and various Title I funds in order to balance a budget deficit as well as provide acceptable class sizes.
- As a Cabinet member, performed the duties of both a co-chair of a levy campaign as well as chairman of a steering committee designed to inform Toledo voters about the educational issues on the ballot.
- Implemented an innovative student centered district-wide Transformation Plan with built-in cost savings of \$7.6 million. As part of the highly acclaimed initiative, ran the multi-variance SPSS analysis on K-8 vs. middle school performance, which resulted in a district-wide reconfiguration back to traditional K-8 schools.
- Became the driving force behind data-driven decisions in the district; assisted in increasing the state performance index in 16 of the 17 schools under immediate supervision, which resulted in 15 of the 17 schools having state designations of Continuous Improvement or higher.
- Member of the technology committee that developed a comprehensive plan for the implementation and conversion of a new district-wide computer system, along with training.
- Worked with the Minority Chamber of Commerce to ensure minority inclusion in the Building For Success Program – an \$800 million construction/renovation project to build 42 new schools and renovate 7 other buildings.
- Reconstituted Lincoln Academy into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy for Boys, which in 2012 achieved a state rating of Excellent on the Ohio Department of Education State Report Card.
- Worked with the Building Leadership Team at Birmingham Elementary on weekly interventions and data assessments; the school jumped two state designations to achieve an Excellent rating on the Ohio Department of Education State Report Card.
- Worked with the district Reading Academy to institute an intense Reciprocal Teaching Program in all the RttT schools and summer intervention; in the first year, the program showed a statistically significant impact on the state reading achievement scores, with many students moving from a basic to proficient rating between the months of October and May.
- Worked with the district Reading Academy to provide a summer 3rd grade reading intervention program which had a 90 percent state test passage rate at the end of the program.
- Trimmed the workforce within the \$330 million operational budget to compensate for drastic cuts from the state as well as the depreciation of local property taxes.
- Involved in union negotiations to downsize the district in order to erase a \$10 million deficit in 2009-2010, a \$30 million deficit in 2010-2011 and, through the Transformation Plan, eliminated another \$37 million deficit for 2011-2012.
- Assisted principals and assistant principals with budgeting their Title I allocation to align with their school improvement goals and objectives.
- Recruited by the National Principals Leadership Institute to be a facilitator/coach in New York City, working with professional educators from across the country to devise plans on such topics of 'Equity and Excellence' and 'Leadership for Our Times' for the Obama administration.
- Experienced in analyzing and presenting to schools and the district Ohio Achievement Assessment state results; versed in using Battelle for Kids (T-CAP/value added), Success website, STAR Assessment, Success Maker 4, and Edusoft (quarterly assessments to the pacing guide); also experienced in using SPSS statistical software which is used to manifest statistical significance among testing variables.

2007

Honorary proclamation from the City of Toledo to recognize the North End Beautification Project

2002

Distinguished Citizenship from Toledo City Council

Recognition from both the Ohio Senate and the House of Representatives as a Distinguished Citizen

Inducted to Birmingham Hall of Fame

2001

Member of the Inter-Collegiate Urban Leadership Development Program

1997 & 1994

Two time winner of the Jon Binder Heart & Courage Award given by the University of Toledo to student athletes who excel both in the classroom and on the field.

Affiliations

Council of the Great City Schools

The Ohio 8 Coalition

OSBA -- Ohio School Board Association

BASA -- Buckeye Association of School Administrators

NPLI -- National Principals Leadership Institute

AASA -- American Association of School Administrators: District Cabinet

ASCD -- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Rotary Club of Downtown Toledo -- Club #44

Assistant Superintendent—Continued**August, 2008 to August, 2013**

- Taught a college master's level course for a select leadership cohort called the Urban Leadership Development Program (ULDP); the class was designed to develop data-driven instructional leaders by teaching them the effective use of data to improve quality instruction.
- Experienced in analyzing and presenting to schools and the district Ohio Achievement Assessment state results; versed in using Battelle for Kids (T-CAP/value added), Success website, STAR Assessment, Success Maker 4, and Edusoft (quarterly assessments to the pacing guide); also experienced in using SPSS statistical software which is used to manifest statistical significance among testing variables.
- Taught a college master's level course for a select leadership cohort called the Urban Leadership Development Program (ULDP); the class was designed to develop data-driven instructional leaders by teaching them the effective use of data to improve quality instruction.

Principal at Riverside Elementary**August, 2005 to July, 2008****Toledo Public Schools - Toledo, OH**

- Worked as the instructional leader of an urban K-6 elementary school with 46 staff members, 650+ enrolled students and an annual budget of \$300,000.
- Moved the school from the state's rankings of Academic Watch to Continuous Improvement for three consecutive years.
- Achieved the district's highest value-added gains for the special education subgroup and, according to Battelle for Kids, fourth graders ranked first in reading and third in math in the state of Ohio.
- Provided three different tutoring programs and possessed the largest tutoring enrollment in the district during three-year tenure.