

Robert S. Nielsen

Office Address:

Bloomington Public Schools District 87
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Educational Preparation:

Doctor of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	1993
Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	1986
Master of Arts, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago	1979
Bachelor of Arts, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago	1976

Professional Experience:

1998-Present **Superintendent of Schools**
Bloomington Public Schools District 87, Bloomington, Illinois

Responsibilities Include:

- Provide leadership for a Pre-Kindergarten through twelfth grade Unit School District of 5800 students. Bloomington Schools educate students from diverse backgrounds, both ethnically and economically.
- Bloomington Public School District 87 is composed of over 400 certified staff members and over 300 support staff. Our budget is approximately \$80 million dollars.
- Bloomington is composed of one Early Childhood Center, six elementary schools, one Junior High School, one High School, one Area Career Center and one Regional Vocational Center.

1993-1998 **Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction**
Urbana School District 116, Urbana, Illinois

Responsibilities Included:

- Development of curriculum for a K-12 district of 5200 students
- Coordination of staff development for a certified staff of 400
- Development of a strategic plan for technology
- Development of outcomes and grade level indicators in each of the six fundamental learning areas
- Responsibility for all grants
- Supervision and evaluation of all building administrators
- Coordination of District 116 and University of Illinois Mentored Resident Teacher Program
- Coordination of school/community business partnerships
- Development of alternative assessments based upon the outcomes and indicators through district Assessment Teams
- Coordination of school improvement plans for all eight (8) schools

1991-1993 **Principal**
Urbana High School, Urbana, Illinois
Urbana High School serves a diverse student population approximately 25% African American, 10% International and 65% White. Urbana High School has 1200 students in grades 9-12.

Responsibilities Included:

- Instructional leaders for a building of 1200 students and 85 faculty and staff.
- As principal, it was my responsibility to provide all members of the educational community with the opportunity to experience success.
- My mission was to maximize the efficacy of students, teachers and parents.

1989-1991

Associate Principal

Crete-Monee High School, Crete, Illinois

Crete-Monee High School serves a diverse student population of 1400. The composition of the student body is 40% African American, 10% Hispanic and Asian, and 50% White. Crete-Monee High School has a staff of approximately 100.

Responsibilities Included:

- Coordination of the student assistance team composed of guidance counselors, deans, social worker, psychologist and Chapter I teacher;
- Supervision and evaluation of the four Division Leaders and two Assistant Principals;
- Development of master schedule for 1400 students and 100 faculty and staff;
- Staff development for all certified staff including administrators;
- Building representative to the district curriculum committee; and
- Budget supervision for all high school accounts.

1986-1989

Division Leader

Crete-Monee High School, Crete, Illinois

Leader for Foreign Language, Social Studies, Physical Education and Health

Responsibilities Included:

- Curriculum development in each area of responsibility;
- Supervision and evaluation of teachers in each of these departments; and
- Budget development and disbursement for each department

1979-1986

Teacher and Coach

Downers Grove South High School, Downers Grove, Illinois

Downers Grove South High School serves a population of 3000 students and has over 230 teachers and administrators. The student population is 80% White, 10% African American, and 10% Hispanic.

Responsibilities Included:

- Team taught social studies with an English teacher to “at-risk” juniors and seniors. This program was developed to keep students in school while providing educational, social and personal services to each student. In seven years, we reached a 95% retention rate for a population of students who had nearly an 80% dropout rate prior to this program;
- Taught a cross categorical resource center;
- Served as Vice President, Grievance Chair, and an Association representative for the Downers Grove South Education Association;
- Served on the building Principal Advisory Committee for four years. This position was elected by the teachers; and
- Coached sophomore and varsity football and girls’ basketball.

1977-1979

Social Studies Teacher and Coach

Maine East High School, Park Ridge, Illinois

During this time, Maine East was a building of 3200 students and over 200 faculty and staff. Maine East serves a diverse student population including a large bilingual program.

Responsibilities Included:

- Taught government to seniors of different ability levels; and
- Coached football and boys' basketball.

Recognitions and Awards:

- Illinois State Board of Education *Those Who Excel* Award
- Van Miller Distinguished Scholar-Practitioner Award from the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) and the University of Illinois' Department of Education, 2004
- *2004 Evelyn Cobb Service Award* presented by the McLean County Community COMPACT in appreciation for outstanding volunteerism and commitment to the goals of the McLean County COMPACT.
- Illinois Association of School Administrators' Illinois Superintendent of the Year
- University of Illinois Educational Administration Alumni Association Distinguished Achievement Award

State and National Committees and Commissions:

- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Formative Assessment Advisory Group
- Illinois Delegate to the Education Commission of the States
- Member of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago Task Force on Teacher Education and Professional Development
- Former President for the Large Unit District Association (LUDA)
- Chair of the State Accountability Appeals Committee
- Governor's Education Taskforce

Publications and Presentations:

I have presented workshops on student performance assessment throughout the State of Illinois. These presentations include information on "backward mapping" for student learning and the appropriate assessment strategies for the stated outcomes. I am consulting with school districts throughout the State of Illinois.

- **March 2001** Presenter at the National School Boards Conference in San Diego, California explaining the six elements Bloomington Schools have identified to increase student achievement.
- **November 2000** Presenter at the annual School Boards Conference regarding collective bargaining, and the six elements Bloomington Schools have identified to increase student achievement.
- **April 2000** Presenter for AASA regarding student assessment.

Professional Associations:

- American Educational Research Association
- American Association of School Administrators
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- Phi Delta Kappa