



## Dr. Donna Leak

Dr. Donna Leak is the Superintendent of Community Consolidated Schools District 168 in Sauk Village, IL and serves as the Vice Chair of the Illinois State Board of Education. As Vice Chair of the State Board, she has been instrumental in updates to the mission, vision, goals, equity statement and updated strategic plan for the state of Illinois. She serves as a strong voice for those educators in the field of education at the state and national level.

Under her tenure in District 168, the district has made major facility updates including addressing water issues for children. The district has seen considerable improvements in academics, technology and social emotional needs for children. Dr. Leak has moved the district through a full-scale renovation to include playgrounds, new flooring, renovated track at the Junior High School, new water filtration system at all buildings and Media Center renovations in a two-year window of time. Her efforts have also increased the integration of technology at all levels within the district. In December 2014, she was named the Sauk Village Person of the year for her work in the school district.

Previously, she served as the Superintendent of Rich Township High School District 227. Under her leadership, the District received numerous awards and recognition including Best High Schools in America Bronze Winners Rich East in 2009, 2010, 2012 and Rich Central in 2012.

Dr. Leak began her career as a Sixth Grade Math Teacher in 1989. From that beginning point, she went on to teach high school mathematics and became the youngest and first African American Department Chairperson at Homewood-Flossmoor High School. In 1999, Dr. Leak left the public education sector to work as an International Consultant for Mathematics. Dr. Leak worked with the Department of Defense and American Community Schools in Western Europe, Asia, and South America. She has trained thousands of

teachers not only abroad, but in large domestic areas such as New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Memphis. She has spoken at more than 200 conferences worldwide and represented the United States at the International Congress on Math Education in Seville, Spain. Before returning to public education, Dr. Leak served as a Senior Marketing Manager and subsequently Vice President of Educational Services in the publishing industry.

Upon her return to the public sector in 2003, Dr. Leak served as Assistant Principal in Chicago Public Schools, then left to become the Associate Principal at Rich Central High School and Assistant Superintendent of Rich Township High School District 227 in Olympia Fields, IL before taking the helm as Superintendent in that district.

From there, she has now moved on to work with schools at the Pre-K–8th grade level in District 168. Her current Superintendency has allowed her the opportunity to connect the need for greater services at the Pre-K–8th grade level—building firm foundations for young people before high school.

Her great passion for the education of all children has fueled her to make a mark on the lives of those who shape the lives of young people in the classroom on a daily basis. To that end, she has been a member of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics for over 25 years serving as a Board Member for over 15 years in a variety of roles including her current chairmanship of the Nominations Committee. In addition, she has been an active member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics for over 20 years, including serving in the National Program Committee for the Annual Conference in Anaheim.

Dr. Leak holds a BS in Mathematics, MS in Educational Administration, and PhD in Leadership and Policy Studies. She is a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and national Coalition of 100 Black Women. Her passion for giving back to the community is exemplified in all that she does including serving on the PUSH Excel National Board of Directors. Dr. Leak's philosophy in life is that "you do not follow your dreams; you chase them with intensity, passion and purpose!".

She is married to Spencer Leak, Jr., Vice President of Leak and Sons Funeral homes and has two children, Spencer Leak, III and Emma Sophia Leak.