



Mary Skipper is in her seventh year as Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools. She joined SPS in July of 2015 following an outstanding career at Boston Public Schools, and quickly made her mark in Somerville as an innovative and visionary thinker, a passionate advocate for all youth, and a strategic systems builder whose approach includes leveraging community resources to support students.

Under her tenure, Somerville has emerged as a leader in the use of data to inform continuous progress and to ensure a student-centered approach to teaching and learning driven by an unfailing commitment to equity of opportunity and access for all students. That commitment is evident through the continuous work at all levels of the district to examine current practices, dismantle barriers, and create a teaching and learning community where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Over the last five years, SPS has adopted equity policies to support this commitment, hired a Director for Equity and Excellence and expanded the district's equity team to include Equity Specialists and equity teams in each school. Additionally, SPS has expanded its Multilingual Learner Education (MLE) program with newcomer academies and specialized programs for Students with Limited and Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE), reduced sub-separate Special Education programs, and decreased out-of-district placements by developing specialized programs and services to meet student needs.

Superintendent Skipper's approach to ensuring the support of the whole child has led to the development of game-changing resources, programs and partnerships, such as the district's home-grown Student Insights integrated data system, the development of an Educator Leadership Model designed around a distributed leadership approach to expand leadership opportunities and help build capacity in SPS schools and the district, and expansion of the district's student support model to include embedded counselors at every school along with adjustment counselors and social workers. Her dedication to providing students with rich beyond-the-classroom learning experiences has led to new and stronger partnerships that enhance the student learning experience both during the school day as well as outside the school day and the school walls. Breakthrough Greater Boston, Enroot, and Becoming a Man are among the many new partnerships that have been developed during Superintendent Skipper's time in SPS.

Under her guidance, Somerville has become known as a forward-thinking district that consistently ranks among the top urban districts in overall student growth, and a district that has seen a declining drop-out rate to an all-time low of 0.5% (2019) at Somerville High School, along with an increasing four-year graduation rate to an all-time high of 92.5% (2020).

Before coming to Somerville, Superintendent Skipper was Network Superintendent of High Schools for BPS, where she oversaw 34 high schools serving approximately 19,500 students. During her time as Network Superintendent, Boston High Schools achieved the lowest drop-out and the highest graduation rates in BPS history. Among her most notable accomplishments while at BPS, Superintendent Skipper helped launch TechBoston Academy (TBA) as the founding Headmaster in 2002. Under her leadership, TBA grew from a 9-12 high school serving 75 students, to a 6-12 school with a staff of more than 100 serving a diverse student population of more than 1,000, 30% of which were English Language Learners and 25% of which were Special Education students.

Superintendent Skipper holds a Bachelor's in English and Latin from Tufts University. She earned a Master's in Education Policy from Harvard and a Master's in Education Leadership from Columbia Teachers College.

Superintendent Skipper and her husband Peter, a retired BC High School religion teacher, have three children of whom they are very proud and two amazing son-in-laws: Kassie, a teacher in the Denver Public Schools and her husband Joseph Montoya who is Senior Director of Residential at Namasté Solar; Lihlani, who is the Associate Director at Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School and her husband Garrett Dash Nelson who is President & Head Curator at the Leventhal Map and Education Center at the BPL; and Peter, who is a Manager at Deloitte Consulting Government & Public Services in Washington, D.C. She is also the very proud grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren, Adela, Zana, Gabe and Cyrus.