2027 KANSAS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Winner



DR. BRENT YEAGER

Olathe USD 233

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Topeka, KS — The Kansas School Superintendents' Association (KSSA) is proud to announce Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent of Olathe Public Schools USD 233, as the 2027 Kansas Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Yeager was selected from an exceptional group of nominees, including Cindy Couchman (USD 313) and Blake Vargas (USD 436).

Dr. Yeager has served as Superintendent of Olathe Public Schools since 2021, bringing nearly two decades of leadership experience within the district. He began his Olathe career as Principal of Fairview Elementary in 2007 and went on to serve as Executive Director of General Administration and Elementary Programs before becoming Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Kansas State University in 2001, a Master of Arts in School Leadership from Baker University in 2005, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Baker University in 2015.

Olathe Public Schools is the largest school district in the Kansas City metropolitan area, serving approximately 28,500 students and more than 5,000 employees. Known for academic excellence and innovative programming, the district offers nationally recognized opportunities such as its 21st Century Academies, the Compass program, which expands behavioral supports and personalizes learning for K-8 students, and new Innovation Campus focused on career and technical education. Olathe has also earned annual recognition from Forbes as one of America's Best Employers and was recently named the 11th Best Midsize Employer in the nation. With a strong tradition of excellence—including National Blue Ribbon Schools and Kansas Teachers of the Year—the district remainscommitted to innovation,

operational excellence, and preparing every student for success while responding thoughtfully to changing enrollment and the evolving needs of its community.

Dr. Yeager led Olathe Public Schools in developing an equity-focused continuous improvement system that uses data, individualized growth targets, timely assessments, and high-quality instruction to accelerate achievement for every student. The approach shifted the district's focus from proficiency alone to meaningful student growth and actionable instructional decisions. As a result, Olathe exceeded statewide improvement rates in 80% of comparisons for reducing Level 1 performance and 88% for increasing proficiency, while also advancing innovative assessment practices through its approval for the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority. Dr. Yeager has also led Olathe Public Schools through significant financial challenges by advocating for sustainable funding, building community trust, and maximizing available resources. He helped establish the Kansas Public School Funding Coalition to strengthen advocacy for special education funding and has consistently engaged policymakers on behalf of public education. Through transparent community engagement, he also helped secure approval of a historic $389 million bond—the largest in district history and the second approved during his tenure, totaling nearly $700 million in community-approved bond funding. Throughout, he has protected instructional quality and kept student success at the center of district decision-making.

"I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside Dr. Yeager throughout his entire tenure as superintendent, and I have seen firsthand how deeply he cares about our students, staff and the greater Olathe community," said Olathe Board of Education President Julie Steele. "Brent leads with integrity, and genuine care for the Olathe community that he reverently calls home. Most importantly, he is a steady and intentional leader who never loses sight of why we are here – our students. Dr. Yeager has guided our district through some incredibly complex challenges while continuing to move us forward academically, strengthen relationships and advocate fiercely for public education. This recognition is incredibly well deserved, and I, along with our entire Board of Education, could not be prouder to have him representing Olathe Public Schools and public education across the state of Kansas."

Dr. Yeager will be honored alongside fellow nominees Cindy Couchman and Blake Vargas at the 2027 Kansas Superintendent of the Year Gala, to be held November 5, 2026, in Wichita, Kansas, hosted by the Kansas School Superintendents' Association (KSSA). As the 2027 Kansas Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Yeager's application will also be submitted to AASA, the national School Superintendents Association, for consideration as the 2027 National Superintendent of the Year.

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KANSAS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION