

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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Daniel Bittman is the 2016 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year



Dr. Daniel Bittman

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Daniel Bittman, Superintendent of Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools (ISD 47), as the 2016 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

As the Minnesota honoree, Dr. Bittman is a candidate among other state winners for National Superintendent of the Year, to be announced during the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) convention on February 11-13, 2016 in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Bittman was selected for this honor by a panel of representatives from a variety of Minnesota education organizations.

Superintendent of the Year nominees are evaluated on how each candidate demonstrates:

- Leadership for learning—creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system.
- Communication skills—strength in both personal and organizational communication.
- Professionalism—constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.
- Community involvement—active participation in local community activities and understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

“Since day one, Dr. Bittman has had a positive impact in his district - I am very pleased to see him become a great leader at Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools and within the surrounding communities,” said MASA Executive Director Dr. Gary Amoroso. “Dr. Bittman is highly respected by his colleagues in Minnesota. We are very proud to have him represent our administrators as Minnesota’s Superintendent of the Year.”

Dr. Bittman has served as Superintendent of Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools since 2010. The district serves approximately 40,000 residents and 4,300 children while employing nearly 600 staff members. Located in the northwestern part of the St. Cloud metropolitan area, the district is well known for its vibrant, student-centered high school and comprehensive secondary programs.

“Dr. Bittman has been an amazing force in raising the level of performance throughout our district,” said Erich Martens, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Principal. “Because of his leadership, our students and staff are performing better, our community is more engaged and supportive of our schools, our programming is stronger for all students, and we are clearly focused on providing access and opportunities for all students in our district.”

“It is difficult to contemplate where our District might be without the leadership of Dr. Bittman over the past five years. He is clearly the most committed and passionate professional that our district has ever encountered,” said

Kim Eisenschenk, Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Business Manager. “Dr. Bittman works tirelessly to improve opportunities for all students and continues to find ways to expand learning opportunities for all those he comes in contact with. We are so fortunate to have such a vibrant, respected and selfless Superintendent who works nonstop for the best interest of students.”

Prior to serving as Superintendent at Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, Dr. Bittman served as Assistant Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Education, Director of Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Centennial School District, and as Director (Elementary-186 elementary schools) in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Bittman earned his B.A. Degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in Secondary Education, specializing in Spanish, Psychology, and Coaching, and his M. Ed and Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

He was appointed by Governor Pawlenty and served a four-year term on the Minnesota Board of Teaching as Minnesota’s Administrative Representative, and currently serves in an official capacity on numerous Boards and/or Committees such as, but not limited to, the St. Cloud Area Chamber, Great River Rotary, Better Living: Exercise and Nutrition Daily (BLEND), MASA, Partners for Student Success, and the St. Cloud State University Teacher Preparation Institute.

For more information on the AASA Superintendent of the Year Program, please visit the www.aasa.org.

MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota’s school leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of special education, and other central office administrators, as well as state department administrators, college, and university professors, and other educators throughout Minnesota dedicated to educational leadership for students.

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