

Press Release



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[SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

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Dr. Jennifer Burks to be Named Solana Beach School District Superintendent



Dr. Jennifer Burks emerged as the top candidate for Superintendent of the Solana Beach School District after a recruitment, selection, and screening process led by district trustees. Dr. Burks will be formally appointed on February 15, 2024, pending successful contract negotiations, which are in progress.

Dr. Burks is currently the Associate Superintendent in the Poway Unified School District, where she has worked in significant roles, including oversight of district technology and instructional programs. She has previous experience as a classroom teacher, administrator, educational specialist, and professor.

“Throughout her educational career, Dr. Burks has demonstrated excellence, embodying an outstanding leadership style that aligns with our district’s mission, vision, and values. Her professional references consistently described her as an empathetic and caring leader who cultivates support with colleagues, parents, and community members,” said Debra Schade, president of the Solana Beach School Board.

Dr. Burks has a doctorate in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California, a master’s degree in clinical psychology, and another in education from Pepperdine University, and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of California Los Angeles.

“I am incredibly honored to be selected as the new Superintendent in the Solana Beach School District. I look forward to meeting our students, families, and dedicated staff and to partnering with the Board of Education in service of each and every learner.”

Dr. Burks is highly involved with several professional organizations, including the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) and the California School Boards Association (CSBA). She is also involved in the San Diego Regional STEM Pathways Design and the Artificial Intelligence Taskforce of CSBA and ACSA. Dr. Burks

is a sought-after guest speaker and consultant, offering her expertise in various educational forums and settings.

On a personal note, Dr. Burks is married and is the proud parent of two daughters and three dogs. She enjoys spending time with her family, visiting the local farmer's market, and discovering new coffee shops.

The Solana Beach School District Board of Education would like to thank those who contributed to a leadership profile for its Superintendency, and to the candidates who shared their visions for the District during interviews. Board President Schade shared that the Board was drawn to Dr. Burks because of her obvious commitment to each and every student, and proven ability to develop strong connections between all educational partners in her current District.

Dr. Burks is planning to begin on March 1, 2024. Associate Superintendent Sabrina Lee will continue to serve as superintendent until Dr. Burks begins her new role.

ABOUT THE SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Solana Beach School District, nestled on the north coast of San Diego County, serves approximately 2,800 students. Instruction is rich, varied and innovative. Our emphasis is on core standards instruction provided through a continuous progressive curriculum. District schools consistently rank at or near the top in district, county and state accountability measures. Our students and schools have received numerous awards and have been recognized at county, state and national levels for a variety of accomplishments. Working together, our mission focuses on providing a safe space where learners find their voice, share their gifts, and advance the world. Unified is our district, centered on inspiring wonder and discovery in learning and life.