



Dr. Jesus F. Jara

Superintendent of Schools

Clark County School District

Dr. Jesus F. Jara has a lifelong passion for creating better opportunities for all children through education, a passion whose roots extend into his own childhood. Having moved from Venezuela to Miami as an English-language learner, Dr. Jara faced many obstacles and challenges as he acclimated to the United States. His teachers, who were compassionate, inclusive and set high expectations for all students, were a critical factor in his success.

The Board of School Trustees of the Clark County School District (CCSD) appointed Dr. Jara as superintendent effective June 2018. Dr. Jara immediately met with employees, families and community leaders to explore the needs of a school district serving 360 schools with more than 320,000 students. After a period of academic and operational review and extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders, Dr. Jara worked with the Board of School Trustees on a revised strategic plan -- Focus: 2024 -- with more specific goals to accelerate student success.

Superintendent Jara led CCSD through the crisis created by COVID-19 and the sudden closure of schools in March of 2020. In an open and transparent process, he included all stakeholders to reopen schools safely, and kept access and equity as top priorities. Dr. Jara credits the strong commitment of CCSD's 42,000 employees and their relentless passion to serve with the ability to overcome countless obstacles, including budget reductions. Through innovative approaches to collaboration and funding, CCSD is working to get every student connected with devices and internet connectivity needed to provide equity for all.

Dr. Jara is leading CCSD as it builds systems of support and job-embedded coaching for its teachers. CCSD is forging partnerships to provide infrastructures for instructional leaders to grow and focus on high-quality instruction. The District also is channeling its dollars into the classrooms and creating needed efficiencies in its processes and operations. CCSD is investing in its aging infrastructure and beginning renovations at schools 20 years or older. Just as important, CCSD will continue to engage all of its stakeholders with transparency.

Dr. Jara has been serving public school students for over 20 years. He previously served as the deputy superintendent for Orange County Public Schools in Florida for six years. With his assistance, Orlando's achievement gap narrowed faster than 90 percent of major cities across the United States, according to Education Quality Index.

During his two-year tenure as the former superintendent and chief operations officer in Monroe County Public Schools, the district increased participation and performance in Advanced Placement and Algebra I. As executive director of the College Board's Florida Partnership, Dr. Jara was responsible for coordinating College Board services to provide equity and access to minority and underrepresented students across the state.

He began his career in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, where he was a bilingual biology teacher and coach, before moving to Springfield, Mass., where he served as assistant principal and principal. As principal of the High School of Science and Technology, he improved Advanced Placement course offerings and graduation rate. In 2005, the high school was a semifinalist for a College Board Inspiration Award.

Dr. Jara is an active member of the community, which includes serving on the board of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance.

He received his Doctorate in Education, Educational Policy, Leadership and Administration from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.