Dion E. Betts, Ed.D.

Lancaster, PA • dionbetts@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education executive and consultant with nearly four decades of experience spanning special education, building and district leadership, and the superintendency. Led districts of up to 10,000 students and $170M budgets, and served as regional superintendent overseeing 30 schools, 45,000 students, and $700M in Philadelphia. Known for making literacy a district-wide mission, building high-performing instructional systems, and developing school leaders through coaching. Author of five books on autism and educator practice.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022 – Present | President / Owner

K-12 Strategic Advisors

- Provide strategic consulting and executive coaching to school districts and education leaders.
- Advise on curriculum, instruction, leadership development, and organizational improvement.
- Author and presenter on educator coaching and autism; five published books on autism and educator practice.

2019 – 2022 | Superintendent

Chambersburg Area School District

17 schools • 10,000 students • $170M budget

- Made literacy the focal point for the district and the broader community.
- Developed multi-year district goals for student achievement, finance, professional development, and college/career readiness, each with measurable strategies.
- Reorganized central administration around innovation and continuous improvement, with a K–12 focus on curriculum, instruction, and professional development.
- Established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team.

2013 – 2019 | Assistant (Regional) Superintendent

School District of Philadelphia

Up to 30 schools • 45,000 students • $700M budget

- Improved principal performance through supervision and coaching.
- Budgeted, staffed, and supervised programs across all assigned schools.
- Developed regional collaborative reading and arts festivals.
- Launched a community schools initiative.
- Facilitated school/community workgroups to resolve cultural conflicts.
- Selected for the AASA Discover China program.

2010 – 2013 | Superintendent

Boyertown Area School District

10 schools • 7,000 students • $95M budget

- Led collective bargaining negotiations.
- Implemented MTSS / Response to Intervention and Instruction.
- Led strategic planning and the PlanCon school construction process.
- Instituted high-performing schools practices.
- Expanded cyber, hybrid, and blended course offerings.
- Developed long-range financial planning.

- Established a community/school district anti-bullying task force.

2004 – 2009 | Assistant to the Superintendent for Instructional Support

South Western School District, Hanover, PA

6 schools • 4,200 students • $95M budget

- Served as a Learning Focused Schools trainer.
- Implemented Response to Instruction and Intervention.
- Doubled the rate of students with disabilities scoring Proficient or Advanced on the PSSAs — and doubled the inclusion rate.

1985 – 2004 | Administrator / Teacher — Special Education and Alternative Education

- Central Dauphin School District, Harrisburg, PA; Berks and Schuylkill County Intermediate Units; School District of Philadelphia.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2022 | Adjunct Professor, Educational Leadership

Holy Family University

- Courses taught: School Finance (graduate); Curriculum Development (graduate); The Principalship (doctoral); Legal, Social, and Political Issues in School/Community (graduate).

EDUCATION

2002 — Ed.D., Widener University — School Administration

Inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education

1988 — M.A., Drexel University — Creative Arts in Therapies

1986 — M.S.Ed., State University of New York at Albany — Special Education

Full fellowship

1985 — B.S., State University of New York at New Paltz — Psychology / Music

High Honors Program

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- AASA National Superintendent Certification, 2020 – 2022.
- NISL / PDE Superintendent Academy, 2018 – 2019.
- Harvard Graduate School of Education, Summer Leadership Programs — Future of Learning (2015); Leadership: An Evolving Vision (2012).

CERTIFICATIONS

- Superintendent (Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey).
- Elementary and Secondary Principal (Pennsylvania).
- Supervisor of Special Education (Pennsylvania).
- Special Education, K–12 (Pennsylvania).

PUBLISHED BOOKS

- *Everyday Activities to Help Your Young Child with Autism Live Life to the Full.* Dion Betts and Debra Jacobs. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2011.
- *Hints and Tips for Helping Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.* Dion Betts and Nancy J. Patrick. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2008.
- *Asperger Syndrome in the Inclusive Classroom: Advice and Strategies for Teachers.* Stacey W. Betts, Dion Betts, et al.. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2007.
- *Homespun Remedies: Strategies in the Home and Community for Children with Autism Spectrum and Other Disorders.* Dion Betts and Nancy J. Patrick. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.
- *Yoga for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents and Caregivers.* Dion Betts and Stacey W. Betts. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.