



A Message from the Superintendent

By Superintendent Dr. Rupak Gandhi

A New Chapter

Fargo Public Schools staff, families and community,

Today, I am writing with a heavy heart and profound gratitude to share that at the end of this school year, I will be stepping down as Superintendent of Fargo Public Schools. This decision was not made easily, and I hope you feel, as I do, the deep sense of connection that has grown between us since my family arrived here in 2018. This community has welcomed us, supported us, and shown us what it means to be a part of Fargo. Serving here has been more than a role: it has been a privilege, a calling, and a source of inspiration.

I am announcing my resignation at this point in the school year to allow the District and the Board ample time to conduct a search for the next superintendent, ensuring they have the opportunity to find the best possible candidate to lead Fargo Public Schools into a bright future.

Next year, we are starting a new family business that will allow me to work more closely with my wife and spend more time with our children while remaining in this wonderful community. This opportunity grants us the flexibility to select professional projects and make family a priority. With our youngest starting kindergarten, the timing is ideal to pursue this new chapter. By making this shift, I'll be able to spend an estimated 700 additional hours next year with my children – a gift that is simply irreplaceable.

Reflecting on these seven years at Fargo Public Schools, I am extremely proud of what we have achieved together. This district has reached unprecedented heights in North Dakota, accomplishing milestones that once may have seemed out of reach. Together, we have:

- Established the Explorer Academy, creating an environment that provides intensive support for students with specialized needs.
- Launched our Self-Directed Academy for middle school students, offering students a chance to learn at their own pace and fostering independence and responsibility.
- Created a dedicated department focused on diversity, inclusion, and equity – and pushed forward to prioritize educational justice, ensuring every student has access to high-quality education as their fundamental right.
- Developed the FPS Philosophies, which affirm our shared values and create a culture of belonging, dignity, and respect for educators' expertise.
- Set standards for transparency through two financial dashboards – our ClearGov Financial Transparency Dashboard and our Strategic Plan Scorecard – making our district's financial decisions and goals open to all.



Message from the Superintendent, continued

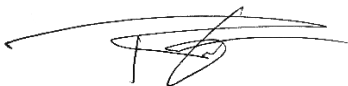
- Led North Dakota in implementing the Next Education Workforce Model, aimed at better supporting teachers and fostering sustainable workloads.
- Re-envisioned our approach to discipline, focusing on restorative practices to foster social growth, accountability, and positive change rather than exclusionary measures.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments we have reached, and they were only possible because of the hard work, passion, and commitment of our incredible students, staff, and families. I am so grateful to everyone – students, staff, and teachers – who have taught and inspired me along the way. My deep gratitude goes to the Board of Education, our FPS partners, and the countless community leaders who have supported our mission. We are fortunate to be part of a community that values and cares for its public institutions, and I have been truly lucky to serve here.

While my role will change, my commitment to Fargo Public Schools and this community remains unwavering. I will always be an advocate for our district, and as a parent, I will continue to champion the achievements of our students and staff. This next step allows me to pursue educational justice in new ways, supporting school leaders and making an impact on a broader scale, but I will always carry the lessons learned here in Fargo with me.

Thank you for the trust, support, and partnership we have shared over these seven years. I am immensely proud of our work together and am honored to have served as your Superintendent. As we move through this school year, I remain dedicated to serving our students, staff, and community with the same commitment and focus that has guided me from the beginning. Though my role may be changing, my heart remains with Fargo Public Schools, and I look forward to staying closely connected as part of this wonderful community.

With heartfelt gratitude and respect,



Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Fargo Public Schools

