



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Independence School District

ISD Announces New Superintendent

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. – The Independence School District Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Vickie Murillo as the new District Superintendent**, effective July 1st, 2026. The unanimous decision was made after an extensive search and interview process, in which Dr. Murillo emerged as the top candidate due to her qualifications, experience, and commitment to educational excellence.

Dr. Murillo brings nearly 40 years of experience in the field of education, currently serving as Superintendent at **Council Bluffs Community School District in Iowa**, just outside Omaha, Nebraska, where she was recently named by Education Insider Magazine as one of the nation's **Top 10 Superintendents**. Dr. Murillo earned her Bachelor's degree from Evangel University, her Master's degree in Education Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and her Doctorate of Education from Baker University.

In Dr. Murillo's current role, she spearheaded initiatives that resulted in growth and accomplishments in the areas of **student achievement, equitable opportunities, and college & career readiness**. Her visionary approach to education, coupled with her ability to collaborate with teachers, parents, and community members, will be an asset to our school district.

"I am deeply honored and excited to serve as the new Superintendent of the Independence School District," said Dr. Murillo. **"I am committed to working tirelessly alongside our dedicated educators and staff to ensure that every student receives a world-class education and has the opportunity to reach their full potential. I am also truly excited about the opportunity to come home."** Most meaningful to Dr. Murillo is her deep, personal connection to Independence, the community where she grew up, making her return a "true homecoming and a point of pride." Dr. Murillo and her family continue to have local ties and community connections here in Independence and the Kansas City metro.

"We are confident that Dr. Murillo will provide strong leadership and a clear path forward for our school district," said ISD Board President Carrie Dixon. **"We look forward to working closely with her as we collectively strive to provide a high-quality education for all of our students."**

The Board of Education believes that Dr. Murillo is the ideal candidate to lead the ISD into the future, fostering inclusivity and excellence in education. Her passion for student success and her proven track record in educational leadership make her well-suited to guide our district toward continued growth and achievement.

Dr. Murillo will officially **assume her role as District Superintendent on July 1, 2026**. She is eager to begin collaborating with the entire ISD community to build upon the district's successes for our students, staff, and community.



Dr. Vickie Murillo