

# Dr. Lori Haven

Superintendent, Perry Public Schools

Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail [REDACTED]



**Student-Centered Superintendent & Innovative Educational Leader** A visionary "Lead Learner" and Doctorate-level executive dedicated to the academic growth, well-being, and success of every student. Proven track record in Instructional Leadership, utilizing research-based frameworks like Networked Improvement Communities to foster a culture of excellence and teacher professionalism.

**Strategic Fiscal & Operations Manager** Demonstrated success in public school finance, including the successful passage and management of a \$10M bond and sinking fund projects to modernize district infrastructure. Expert in navigating complex budget challenges through transparent communication and creative resource allocation.

**Collaborative Community Builder** A visible and approachable servant leader who cultivates trusting relationships with diverse stakeholders, including Boards of Education, staff, and community partners. Committed to transparency and decisive action in leading systems-level change, such as grade-level realignments and the implementation of district-wide MTSS frameworks.

**State-Level Advocate** Active contributor to the Michigan educational landscape, serving in key leadership roles within the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) and the Future of Learning Council to advocate for public education at the local and state levels.



## Skills

- **Instructional & Systems Leadership:** Proven ability to lead a coherent, systematic approach to instructional improvement while honoring teacher professionalism.
- **Fiscal & Operations Management:** Expert in public school finance, resource allocation, and the transparent management of bond and sinking funds.
- **Collaborative Innovation & Strategic Change:** Proven success in leading complex organizational change by building transparent, trust-based relationships with diverse stakeholder groups to improve student outcomes.

- **Human Resource Management:** Experienced in collective bargaining, mentoring future leaders, and recruiting/retaining diverse staff.
- **Political Awareness & Advocacy:** Strong advocate for public education with direct involvement in state-level issues through MASA leadership.

## Work History

### Jul 2019 - **Superintendent**

Current

*Perry Public Schools*

Lead Learner and Chief Executive for a district of 1,000 students and 150 faculty and staff.

- **Strategic Fiscal Stewardship & Evidence-Based Engagement:** Spearheaded the successful passage and management of a \$10 million bond and sinking fund initiative by cultivating comprehensive stakeholder feedback loops; utilized perception surveys, town halls, and data synthesis to align facility modernizations and District Strategic Design with community values, ensuring transparent, sound decision-making and disciplined resource allocation.
- **Systems-Level Strategic Design:** Authored and implemented a District Strategic Design focused on learner-centered environments; successfully led a grade-level realignment to maximize resources and improve educational programming district-wide.
- **Collaborative Labor Relations:** Served as Lead Negotiator for all bargaining groups, cultivating a culture of trust and creative problem-solving with Association leaders to support staff during restrictive budget cycles.
- **Instructional Leadership & MTSS Implementation:** Re-imagined the District Curriculum Council and led the development of a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to ensure data-informed instructional improvements and equitable student outcomes.
- **Operational Excellence:** Mitigated long-term financial challenges, including a \$55,000 food service deficit, while managing a \$14M annual budget and building a high-functioning Central Office Leadership Team.
- **Holistic Student Services Oversight:** Directed and coordinated district-wide initiatives for student services, technology, facilities, preschool education, and before/after-school programming.

### Aug 2022 - **Adjunct Professor**

Current

*Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, MI*

Empowering the next generation of educational leaders through research-informed instruction.

- **Educator Pipeline Development:** Facilitated rigorous coursework for aspiring educators, ensuring they meet high credentialing standards and possess the

pedagogical skills necessary for modern, high-performing classrooms.

- **Theory-to-Practice Integration:** Empowered students to apply advanced educational theories to real-world classroom scenarios, fostering an environment of reflective practice and professional ownership.
- **Instructional Innovation:** Leveraged diverse digital platforms to enhance student comprehension and model effective 21st-century instructional delivery.
- **Mentorship & Accountability:** Set high expectations for academic and professional excellence, providing direct support and feedback to ensure candidates are prepared to lead diverse learner populations.

◆ Jul 2015 -  
Jun 2019

## **Director, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**

*DeWitt Public Schools*

Led district-wide instructional strategy and professional learning for a high-performing K-12 system.

- **Instructional Improvement & Articulation:** Facilitated the K-12 curriculum articulation process, ensuring a coherent and systematic approach to teaching and learning across all buildings.
- **Data-Informed Decision-Making:** Provided the critical data analysis and fiscal modeling required to drive organizational efficiency and achieve significant cost savings; coordinated the implementation of NWEA testing to directly impact student achievement.
- **Systems Innovation (MTSS):** Facilitated the district-wide change process to design and implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), streamlining services for diverse learner needs and improving instructional outcomes.
- **Professional Learning & Teacher Growth:** Assessed district needs to design and deliver high-impact professional learning for administrators and teachers, including the creation of Collaborative Learning Time.
- **Fiscal Advocacy & Bond Support:** Partnered with district leadership to successfully pass a bond and managed general fund and grant budgets for curriculum and instruction.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Built strong, transparent relationships across all levels of the organization and served as a key administrative voice in collective bargaining sessions.
- **Board & State Relations:** Facilitated monthly work sessions with Board subcommittees and collaborated on the annual submission of the District School Improvement Plan and state consolidated applications.

◆ Jul 2015 -  
Jun 2017

## **MTSS Support Personnel & Trainer**

*Clinton Regional Educational Service Agency*

Regional specialist providing systemic leadership and professional training across two counties to strengthen the K-12 continuum of behavior and learning.

- **Regional Systems Leadership:** Increased the quality and consistency of MiBLSi (Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative) practices across multiple school districts in a two-county region.

- **Capacity Building & Professional Training:** Developed and delivered a comprehensive series of trainings for school leadership teams and classroom teachers, focusing on the Grade Level Problem Solving Process for grades Pre K-4.
- **Data-Driven Instructional Coaching:** Coordinated building-level data reviews three times yearly, empowering teachers to use a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework to drive instructional decisions.
- **Behavioral & Academic Integration:** Applied research-based principles to strengthen school systems, ensuring that behavioral supports and academic learning were integrated along the entire K-12 continuum.

Jul 2011 -  
Jun 2015

## Principal, David Scott Elementary School

*DeWitt Public Schools*

Instructional leader for a grade 3-4 building serving 475 students and 30 faculty members.

- **Continuous Improvement Leadership:** Spearheaded the school improvement process to ensure measurable growth in both student learning outcomes and teacher professional development.
- **Data-Informed Progress Monitoring:** Implemented and sustained formal progress-monitoring systems to track student achievement and facilitate timely instructional interventions.
- **Trust-Based Stakeholder Relations:** Cultivated and maintained deep, trusting relationships with staff, parents, and community partners to foster a supportive learning environment.
- **Commitment to Growth:** Led by example as a passionate advocate for lifelong learning, driving a culture of "continual improvement" within the building.

Oct 2007 -  
Jun 2011

## Principal, DeWitt Junior High School

*DeWitt Public Schools*

Daily instructional and operational lead for a secondary building of 500 students in grades 7 and 8.

- **Professional Learning Architecture:** Designed and coordinated all building-level professional learning experiences, aligning staff growth with district instructional goals.
- **Response to Intervention (RtI) Framework:** Developed the building's first RtI framework to provide systematic academic support for all learners.
- **Grant Acquisition:** Successfully secured two educational grants to supplement the building budget and enhance student learning opportunities.
- **Operational Management:** Managed the daily logistics and safety protocols of a secondary environment, ensuring a stable and focused educational atmosphere.

Oct 2005 -  
Oct 2007

## Assistant Principal, Charlotte Middle School

*Charlotte Public Schools*

Operational and student services leadership for a large, diverse middle school of 1,200 students in grades 5-8.

- **Special Education & Advocacy:** Worked extensively with students with diverse disabilities, including Emotional Impairment (EI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ensuring equitable access to education.
- **Collaborative Problem Solving:** Partnered with teachers and parents to facilitate proactive problem-solving strategies for struggling students.
- **Community Outreach:** Engaged local stakeholders to secure community support for school needs and to enrich student experiences outside the classroom.
- **Curriculum Alignment:** Facilitated grade-level and team meetings focused on the rigorous development of curriculum, alignment, and common assessments.
- **Athletic Coordination:** Managed the coordination of athletic events, supporting a well-rounded student experience.

◆ Aug 1997 - **Spanish Teacher, Williamston Middle School/High School**  
Oct 2005 *Williamston Community Schools*

- **Cultural Competency & Community Engagement:** Leveraged bilingualism and international experience to foster an inclusive learning environment and build trusting relationships with families.
- **Departmental Leadership:** Served as Department Head, managing curriculum design and budgets while facilitating collaborative professional sessions for staff.
- **Student Mentorship:** Facilitated real-world application of language and culture, preparing students to engage effectively in a global society.

◆  **Education**

◆ May 2016 **Doctorate of Educational Leadership**  
*Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI*

◆ May 2008 **Master of Arts: Educational Leadership**  
*University of Cincinnati - Cincinnati, OH*

◆ May 2004 **Master of Arts: Educational Technology**  
*Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI*

◆ May 1996 **Bachelor of Arts: Secondary Education Major: Spanish, Minor: Business**  
*Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI*

- Study Abroad: [Alcala de Henares, Spain 1996](#)

◆  **Publications and Affiliations**

- Capstone Dissertation: Improving Professional Development Through the Use of Networked Improvement Communities: Learning Fast to Implement Well
- Member of the Future of Learning Council (FLC) since 2021
- Member of Institute for Education Innovation (IEI) since 2025
- MASA Region VI President-Elect, 2022-2023
- MASA Region VI President, 2023-2024
- MASA Executive Council Representative, 2022-2025
- MASA Government Relations & Policy Committee, 2024-Present
- ASU+GSV Summit Grant Awardee 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- 2024-2025 Cohort of the Google GSV Education Innovation Fellowship



## Languages

Spanish



## References

Dr. David M. Richards, Executive Director Future of Learning Council

[REDACTED]  
@MichiganFLC

www.futureoflearningcouncil.org

Dr. John Deiter, Superintendent  
Northbrook School District 27 SRES  
1250 Sanders Rd.  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847.498.2610 office  
[REDACTED]

Dr. Andrea Tuttle, Superintendent  
Grosse Pointe Public School System  
20601 Morningside  
Grosse Pointe Woods MI 48236  
313.432.3000 office  
[REDACTED]

Additional references available upon request.

# Dr. Lori Haven

Superintendent, Perry Public Schools

Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail [REDACTED]

February 4, 2026

Dear Mr. Ingall and the Members of the Okemos Board of Education,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Superintendent for Okemos Public Schools. As a long-time resident of Ingham County, I have always admired Okemos for its unwavering commitment to excellence. However, what truly draws me to this role is my passion for supporting the adults who serve our children. I believe that when we empower our staff and respect their deep expertise, we create the conditions where innovation can truly thrive for every learner.

Throughout my career—serving as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent—I have operated as a "Lead Learner" who is driven by relationships. I recognize that our teachers possess the expertise to drive the innovation Okemos is known for. My role as a leader is to build capacity, identify strengths in others, and ensure that our staff has the support they need to be their very best for the children they serve.

My most recent leadership as a superintendent has been defined by this collaborative spirit:

- **Stakeholder-Centered Fiscal Stewardship:** I spearheaded the passage and management of a \$10 million bond initiative that was centered entirely on the needs of our kids. This success was not mine alone; it was the result of building a mandate through community and stakeholder input. We focused on creating opportunities—such as our new Agricultural Science facilities and enhanced music and technology programs—that reflect what our students deserve.
- **Evidence-Based Community Engagement:** I believe in making sound decisions that are informed by the voices of those we serve. I have prioritized transparency by utilizing perception surveys, virtual town halls, and in-person meetings to ensure our "Strategic Design" aligns with community values.
- **Building Meaningful Connection:** I have seen firsthand how intentional connection can transform a community, moving from separate perspectives to a unified vision centered on students' success. Whether through initiating community tailgates or fostering city-school partnerships, my goal is always to create a sense of belonging where families feel a meaningful connection to their district.

In Okemos, I see a district uniquely positioned to build upon its current excellence to continue growing in its support of children. Having lived and worked in the Ingham County area, I have gained a unique understanding of what the Okemos community stands for. I am eager to bring my comprehensive experience in elementary, secondary, and central office leadership to a district that represents the excellence we want to see in all communities.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my experience and vision align with the goals of Okemos Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Haven



East Lansing  
Public Schools

Dori Leyko, Superintendent

[dori.leyko@elps.us](mailto:dori.leyko@elps.us)

NURTURING EACH CHILD · EDUCATING ALL STUDENTS · BUILDING WORLD CITIZENS

February 2, 2026

Members of the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education  
Okemos Public Schools  
4406 N. Okemos Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Board of Education Members,

It is with great enthusiasm and the highest level of professional confidence that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Lori Haven as a candidate for the position of Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools.

Over the course of nearly three decades, I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Haven in multiple capacities—as an emerging educator, as a district-level leader, and as a respected superintendent colleague. Our professional relationship began years ago when Lori student-taught at Haslett Middle School, where I was myself a new teacher.

Since then, our paths have crossed repeatedly through shared leadership work in Mid-Michigan, most notably when we served simultaneously as Curriculum Directors during Lori's tenure in DeWitt Public Schools. In those roles, I saw firsthand her deep understanding of teaching and learning, her ability to bring people together around a common vision, and her unwavering commitment to continuous improvement and equity.

Today, Dr. Haven serves as the Superintendent of Perry Public Schools, where she has led the district through transformative and forward-thinking work for the past seven years. She is recognized for fostering innovation, building strong relationships, and improving student outcomes through collaborative leadership and strategic planning. She brings more than 27 years of dedicated educational service and a strong focus on authentic, engaging learning for all students.

One of Dr. Haven's most impressive strengths is her ability to lead districts through meaningful mission-driven change. Under her leadership, Perry Public Schools has undertaken a powerful "reimagining" process—developing a mission and vision that has not simply been adopted, but actively lived through instructional improvement and community alignment. Her commitment to ensuring that district vision becomes the foundation for real progress aligns exceptionally well with the qualities Okemos Public Schools seeks in its next superintendent.

The Okemos Superintendent Profile emphasizes the need for a visionary, student-centered leader with strong communication skills, fiscal responsibility, and experience leading high-performing systems. Dr. Haven exemplifies these attributes fully.

In Perry, she has supported long-range strategic planning efforts designed to ensure that district decisions remain aligned with community needs, student safety, and high-quality instruction. She has also demonstrated strong fiscal stewardship and transparency through facility planning initiatives designed to extend resources for students while maintaining a strong commitment to the community.

What I have always admired most about Lori is that she leads with strength, empathy and humanity. She is a superintendent who listens deeply, communicates clearly, and keeps students at the center of every decision. She inspires excellence while cultivating belonging, and she has the courage to lead districts through the complex work of change with optimism and integrity.

I am confident that Dr. Lori Haven possesses the exact leadership qualities the Okemos Board of Education has outlined: an experienced, forward-thinking, collaborative superintendent who will uphold Okemos's tradition of excellence while guiding the district into the future.

I offer my strongest recommendation without reservation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this outstanding candidate.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss Dr. Haven's qualifications further.

Sincerely,



Dori Leyko

Superintendent, East Lansing Public Schools



# Laingsburg Community Schools

205 Woodhull, Laingsburg, MI 48848  
517-651-2705 Fax: 517-651-9075



## BOARD MEMBERS

President  
Jason Michels

Vice-President  
Michael Rourke

Secretary  
Renee Gutzman

Treasurer  
Mark Burley

Trustees  
Shane Brink  
Christian Ragsdale  
Maggie Sayles

## ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent  
Matt Shastal

Assistant  
Superintendent  
Julie Nosek

High School Principal  
Brandon Woodworth

High School  
Assistant Principal/  
Athletic Director  
Jabe Thomas

Middle School  
Principal  
Tara Hengesbach

Elementary School  
Principal  
Shelia Freeman

Elementary School  
Assistant Principal  
Kerri DeVault

Director of School  
Readiness & Daycare  
Carol Hart

January 19, 2026

Dear Okemos Board of Education,

I can think of no individual better prepared to serve as the next Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools than Dr. Lori Haven. She would be an extraordinary asset to your students, staff, Board of Education, and the broader Okemos community.

My recommendation is grounded in seven years of close professional collaboration with Dr. Haven as a neighboring superintendent—years that represent some of the most challenging periods in modern educational leadership. Navigating community expectations while managing limited staffing and financial resources has always been demanding; doing so during and after a global pandemic required exceptional leadership. Through this unprecedented time, Dr. Haven’s collaborative leadership style, thoughtful decision-making, and strong relationships with both staff and the Board of Education at Perry Public Schools enabled her to allocate resources effectively, maintain organizational stability, and continue advancing a learning community focused on excellence and opportunity for all students.

Dr. Haven and I speak weekly, and through these conversations I have consistently witnessed her depth of knowledge and sound judgment, particularly in personnel and financial matters. She successfully negotiated multiple labor agreements under extremely challenging conditions, securing meaningful enhancements for employees while safeguarding the district’s long-term financial health. In addition, Dr. Haven has demonstrated exceptional community trust and fiscal leadership through the successful passage of bond proposals, sinking fund millages, and operating millages. These accomplishments reflect her ability to clearly communicate district needs, engage stakeholders, and lead with transparency and integrity.

Equally impressive is Dr. Haven’s leadership in curriculum and instruction. She guided Perry Public Schools through a comprehensive District Strategic Design process that fundamentally transformed the district’s approach to teaching and learning—an initiative that was embraced by staff and resulted in a stronger, more cohesive instructional vision. Leading cultural change is one of the most difficult responsibilities of a superintendent, yet Dr. Haven approached this challenge early in her tenure with confidence, courage, and clarity. She continues to prioritize instructional excellence by securing high-quality professional development and through her active involvement with the Future of Learning Council.

**Strong Foundations ~ Exceptional Values ~ Remarkable Futures!**



## Laingsburg Community Schools

205 Woodhull, Laingsburg, MI 48848  
517-651-2705 Fax: 517-651-9075



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Beyond her district, Dr. Haven is a respected leader within the broader educational community. She has been a trusted colleague and my personal “go-to” advisor over the past seven years. She is highly regarded within the Shiawassee Regional Service District, Clinton County RESA, and the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators. Currently, Dr. Haven serves as the MASA Region 6 representative on the Government Relations and Policy Committee. Her expertise in school finance and educational policy positions her to make a meaningful impact at the state level as legislation is developed and debated.

It is without hesitation or reservation that I strongly recommend Dr. Lori Haven as a candidate for Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools. I am confident she would lead your district with vision, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to students. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] if I can provide additional insight regarding my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Matt Shastal, Superintendent  
Laingsburg Community Schools



# Shiawassee

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## Regional Education Service District

### Board of Education

Timothy H. Atkinson, O.D., *President*

Maggie Sayles, *Vice President*

Michael Rexin, *Treasurer*

Tate Forbush, *Secretary*

Jan Ray, *Trustee*

### Superintendent

David E. Schulte

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1025 North Shiawassee Street

Corunna, Michigan 48817

Phone (989) 743-3471

Fax (989) 743-6477

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February 4, 2026

I am writing in strong support of Lori Haven's application for the position of Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools. I have worked with Lori for the past eight years, and throughout that time she has consistently demonstrated the leadership, vision, and collaborative approach that make her exceptionally well suited for this role.

Under Lori's leadership, Perry Public Schools expanded high-quality academic opportunities that are not always available in rural districts. She provides comprehensive leadership grounded in the district's mission, vision, and core values, fostering a culture of high expectations for diverse learners. Lori is deeply committed to equity and works diligently to ensure all students have access to resources while balancing academic priorities with fiscal responsibility. Under Lori's leadership, Perry Public School voters have supported a bond issue and sinking funds to maintain and upgrade facilities and enhance student offerings.

Lori is a strong instructional leader with expertise in curriculum development and innovative programming for both students and staff. She closely monitors regional trends and emerging needs, fostering a culture of creativity, mentoring, and inclusion. Through collaboration with the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District, neighboring districts, and community agencies, she has expanded services and programs that keep student needs and options at the forefront. Her work is guided by data, research, and fiscal discipline, including the strategic use of shared services to maximize impact of resources and to ensure the focus is on students and staff.

As a lifelong learner, Lori actively seeks leadership development opportunities and regularly participates in professional learning at the county, regional, and state levels. She served as President of MASA Region 6 and was elected by her peers to the MASA Legislative Committee, reflecting the respect she has earned across the profession.

Equally important, Lori brings exceptional people skills to her leadership. She maintains open, respectful communication with families, staff, students, the school board, and the broader community. She leads with calm confidence, places students and families at the center of decision-making, and approaches challenges with both compassion and accountability.

Lori Haven brings the right combination of experience, insight, and personal leadership to excel as Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools. I seek her counsel regularly and value her thoughtful, balanced approach to complex issues. I recommend her without hesitation and am confident she would serve the Okemos community with distinction.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

David E. Schulte  
Superintendent

Our Mission: Provide knowledge driven, research based, direct and collaborative services that support and guide quality learning and innovation.