



FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT *PRESS RELEASE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 15, 2026 **CONTACT:** Juliette Funes **PHONE:** (657) 706-3774

Fullerton School District Appoints Superintendent, Launching New Era of Innovative Leadership

FULLERTON, CA – Fullerton School District is entering an exciting new era of leadership with the appointment of a new Superintendent, Gretchen Janson, Ed.D., an accomplished educator whose nearly 30-year career in public education reflects a deep commitment to student-centered decision-making, innovation and strong fiscal stewardship.

Janson – who serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services at Lynwood Unified School District – was selected by a unanimous vote by the Board of Trustees at its April 14 meeting, following an extensive search conducted by an independent search firm, Leadership Associates. She will officially assume her role on July 1.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Gretchen Janson as the next superintendent of Fullerton School District,” Board President Ruthi Hanchett said. “Dr. Janson brings strong instructional leadership and valuable experience in navigating complex financial challenges. We are confident in her ability to support continued success for our students, staff and community.”

Known for her collaborative leadership style and strategic mindset, she brings a unique blend of instructional expertise and financial acumen to her new role.

She began as a classroom teacher before advancing to roles as an instructional coach, assistant principal and principal in Hawthorne School District. She later served in Lawndale Elementary School District as Director of Teaching and Learning and Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, where she deepened her expertise in curriculum, instruction and districtwide operations.

In Lynwood Unified, Janson has played a key role in aligning fiscal strategy with student-centered priorities, managing a \$250 million classroom reconstruction project and supporting staff raises while reducing the District’s deficit.

Janson holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California and is bilingual in Spanish and English. She balances her professional work with a strong commitment to family and well-being. She has three adult children, including one graduating from USC this May, and enjoys staying active outdoors with her husband and their dogs.

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Across every role, she has remained grounded in the belief that public education is a powerful force for change and that strong relationships, innovation and community partnership are essential to student success.

“While I come into this role with nearly 30 years of experience, I also come with humility,” Janson said. “I know there is much for me to learn – about this community, its traditions and what makes Fullerton so special. I am committed to listening, to building relationships and to ensuring that our decisions always center on what is best for students. Together, I believe we can continue to foster innovative opportunities, inspire students and build an even brighter future for Fullerton.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

041526_JANSON1: Gretchen Janson, Ed.D., an accomplished educator whose nearly 30-year career in public education, has been appointed Fullerton School District’s new superintendent. She officially begins on July 1, 2026.

041526_JANSON2: The Fullerton School District Board of Trustees unanimously voted at its April 14 meeting to appoint Gretchen Janson, Ed.D., as its new superintendent.

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FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Great Schools, Successful Kids

1401 W. Valencia Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833 | (714) 886-1600 | fullertsd.org

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