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Dr. Alexandra Estrella Selected as the Sole Finalist to be the Next Gwinnett County Public Schools Superintendent

Norwalk, Conn. (March 12, 2026) - Norwalk Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella has accepted the offer from Gwinnett County Public Schools to become their new superintendent of schools. She remains committed to Norwalk Public Schools until the end of the school year.

Gwinnett County Public Schools is the largest school system in the state of Georgia with about 180,000 students. Dr. Estrella was the sole finalist for the position.

Dr. Estrella joined Norwalk Public Schools in July 2020, guiding the district through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and most recently, overseeing a period of significant academic growth, operational improvement, and expanded student supports.

“This decision comes with mixed emotions,” Dr. Estrella said. “Professionally, the opportunity to lead one of the largest and most diverse school districts in the nation represents an important milestone in my career. Personally, however, it is incredibly difficult to step away from a community that has meant so much to me and my family. Both of my sons graduated from Norwalk schools, and the relationships we have built here will always remain deeply meaningful.”

During her tenure, Norwalk Public Schools has consistently ranked as the top-performing city school district in Connecticut. The district’s graduation rate reached 92.6 percent in 2024. Chronic absenteeism declined significantly to 17.9 percent during the 2024-25 school year, and districtwide academic growth in English/language arts and mathematics exceeded state averages. High-needs students outperformed their statewide peers in growth metrics for three consecutive years in both ELA and math.

The district also made notable progress in serving students with disabilities and multilingual learners. Graduation rates for multilingual learners increased by more than eight percent between 2023 and 2024, while the graduation rate for students receiving special education services rose nearly nine percent over four years. The district expanded inclusive practices, enabling more students to learn alongside their peers within Norwalk schools.

Under Dr. Estrella’s leadership, Norwalk Public Schools invested in leadership development, instructional coaching, and professional learning for educators, including the introduction of dedicated professional development for paraprofessionals. The district modernized learning through investments in digital tools and the thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence, while advancing its Portrait of a



Graduate initiative to better prepare students for the future.

Dr. Estrella also oversaw the:

- Establishment of school-based equity teams to promote inclusive school cultures and reduce disciplinary actions
- More than doubling the number of school-based health centers across the district
- Strengthening of district data systems to better track student progress and improve instructional decision-making
- Advancement of multiple school construction and facilities improvement projects to create modern, safe learning environments

“None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our educators, staff, families, and community partners,” she said. “Their commitment to our students has shaped every success we have achieved together.”

The Norwalk Board of Education will announce an interim superintendent soon and start to conduct a national search for Dr. Estrella’s successor.

“Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my career,” Dr. Estrella said. “Norwalk will always hold a special place in my heart.”

About Norwalk Public Schools

At Norwalk Public Schools, our mission is to provide an excellent and equitable education so that all students graduate future-ready as civically responsible, globally engaged and positive contributors to an ever-changing and diverse world. Reflecting our diverse community, NPS families speak 59 different languages and represent 70 different countries.

Serving nearly 12,000 students, Norwalk Public Schools consists of four high schools, four middle schools, 13 elementary schools and one inclusive pre-school. NPS high school programs offer International Baccalaureate diploma and career programs; a renowned global studies magnet school; pathways in healthcare, marine science and digital media; and the opportunity to earn an industry recognized associate’s degree along with a high school diploma. PreK through middle school students can take advantage of magnet programs focused on language, character, marine science, college and career readiness, and visual and performing arts. NPS also prides itself on its neighborhood schools, which build community and offer their own unique educational opportunities.