

November 5, 2004

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For information, contact: James L. Menze,  
Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Administrators  
515 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66603  
Phone: 785.232.6566 Fax: 785.232.9776  
E-mail: jmenze@usa-ks.org

## **Kansas City Superintendent Ray Daniels earns state's highest honor: Superintendent of the Year**

Dr. Ray Daniels, superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools, has been named 2005 Kansas Superintendent of the Year. He is now a candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year award, which will be chosen by the American Association of School Administrators this winter.

Daniels has been Kansas City superintendent since 1998. He has devoted his entire professional career to the Kansas City school district, an urban district in its seventh year of a wide reform effort that continues to see significant progress in reading and math achievement.

Daniels was called "the model for what superintendents could and should be," by one of those who helped in the nomination, Susan Wally, vice president of education for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.

"He has led his district through one of the most challenging and successful examples of urban district reform in America," Wally wrote. "Through it all, Ray has remained modest...he always remarks that he is 'pleased, but not satisfied.'"

Daniels was praised for his work in Kansas City—particularly his "strong focus"—by Gloria Willis, president of the board of education.

"There is no better urban superintendent in our nation," she wrote.

Daniels' personal characteristics were praised by Robert Van Maren, Bonner Springs superintendent.

"Ray is a kind, genuine man, who knows in his heart that all students can learn, all parents want to be good parents, all teachers want to be great teachers and that with the right kind of support...the results we can achieve will be amazing," Van Maren said.

Daniels' has devoted his career to Kansas City schools, beginning in 1965 as an English teacher at Northwest Junior High. From there, he served as English teacher at Wyandotte High School beginning in 1968. He entered administration as assistant principal of Wyandotte High School, then became director of personnel services, then assistant superintendent for personnel services. He has served as superintendent since 1998.

Daniels earned his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 1965; a master's from the University of Kansas in 1971; and a doctorate from KU in 1986.

His professional organizations have included membership in United School Administrators of Kansas, serving on the board of directors of Kansas Association of School Administrators, serving on the board of directors of the Kansas Superintendents' Forum Board of Directors and as a member of Phi Delta Kappa.

Locally, his community leadership has included serving as a member of board of directors of Wyandotte County Chamber of Commerce; member and past president of Downtown Kansas City, KS. Kiwanis Club; chair of the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry Board of Directors; member of Wyandotte Health Foundation Board of Directors; member of Greater Kansas City Area Chamber of Commerce Superintendents Group; past chair of the board of directors of United Way of Wyandotte County; past chair of the board of directors of Heart of America Family Services; and past lieutenant governor of the Kansas District of Kiwanis.