

Jessica Coleman Brister



PROFILE SUMMARY

Experienced K-12 educator, school administrator and school improvement specialist with a successful track record of transforming underperforming schools into thriving learning environments. Demonstrated expertise in developing and implementing successful school improvement plans, building leadership capacity within schools and districts, and providing ongoing support and professional development opportunities to educators. Strong communication and collaboration skills with a commitment to equity and diversity in education. Credentials include Turnaround School Specialist and experienced district administrator capable of providing strategic leadership and direction for schools, resulting in improved academic performance and growth.



CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Strategic Planning:** Formulating strategic plans, goals, mission, and vision to bring about systemic change and ensure high-quality curricula is utilized to enhance the teaching and learning of students.
- **Instructional Leadership:** Collecting and analyzing data to improve instructional practices and student learning. Assessing staff and student knowledge, skills, and performance to identify specific needs and using results to facilitate quality professional development.
- **Team Management:** Managing teams of people to develop initiatives that are designed to evoke positive change. Building leadership capacity within schools and districts, leading to the growth and development of sitting school principals who served under my school leadership.
- **Community Engagement:** Facilitating community forums with teachers, students, parents, and community members to identify needs, receive input, and ensure appropriate connections to families. Serving as an advocate and spokesperson for the welfare of all students in diverse environments.
- **Performance Evaluation:** Using valid and reliable performance data to improve and modify classroom instruction. Evaluating school performance and implementing data-driven strategies to enhance student learning outcomes.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Zachary Community School District

August 2023 – present

Supervisor of Early Childhood and Elementary Programs

- Lead and oversee academic programs to ensure alignment with state and district standards.
- Support principals and teachers through data-driven coaching and professional learning.

Louisiana Department of Education – Office of Teaching and Learning

Oct 2021 – July 2023

School Improvement Support Specialist

- Collaborate with Louisiana school system leaders to provide strategic support, develop plans, and serve as a trusted thought partner.
- Built leadership capacity within schools and districts, leading to the growth and development of leaders.
- Organized, developed, and presented district-wide programming and expectations to students, parents, teachers, and leaders, resulting in a clear understanding of educational objectives and improved outcomes.
- Provided professional learning models using best practices to improve teacher performance and support school improvement efforts.
- Facilitated high-quality professional learning opportunities for leaders and teachers across school districts.

East Baton Rouge Parish School System

July 2014 – September 2021

Executive Director for School Leadership

- As Executive Director for School Leadership in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, oversaw and supported the development of school principals, providing guidance and mentorship to help them achieve their goals.
- Ensured successful student outcomes by providing strategic leadership and direction for schools, resulting in improved academic performance and growth.
- Demonstrated expertise in school administration, including policy development and implementation, program planning, budgeting, and staff development.
- Fostered a culture of collaboration and communication among school leadership, teachers, students, and families, resulting in positive relationships and improved learning outcomes.
- Provided ongoing support and professional development opportunities to school principals and staff to help them reach their full potential and deliver high-quality educational experiences for students.
- Demonstrated a commitment to equity and diversity in education, working to ensure that all students had access to the resources and support they needed to succeed.



CONTACT



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SKILLS

- Strategic Planning
- Change Management
- Resource Allocation
- Team Management
- Data Analysis
- Instructional Design
- Professional Development
- Curriculum Development
- Best Practices
- Performance Data
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy Skills
- Goal Setting
- Supportive Leadership
- Program Development
- Budget Management
- Professional Learning
- Leadership Development
- Policy Implementation
- Program Planning
- Staff Development
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Instructional Strategies
- Curriculum Planning

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

Park Elementary School - Reconstituted School, EBR Parish Schools**Jul 2008 – Jun 2014***Principal*

- As Principal of Park Elementary School in the East Baton Rouge Parish Schools, led the successful turnaround of a reconstituted school with 432 students and approximately 50 staff members.
- Provided strategic direction and leadership to ensure the school met and exceeded academic goals and objectives, resulting in improved student performance and growth.
- Fostered a positive and inclusive school culture that valued diversity, equity, and respect, promoting a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff members.
- Implemented and oversaw programs to support student achievement, including academic enrichment, behavioral interventions, and family engagement initiatives.
- Led and supported a team of educators, providing guidance, feedback, and mentorship to help them reach their full potential and deliver high-quality instruction to students.
- Created and executed optimized student and staff schedules to maximize instructional time and improve teaching and learning in every classroom.
- Demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement, regularly evaluating school performance and implementing data-driven strategies to enhance student learning outcomes.
- Achieved Turnaround School Specialist credentials in Louisiana, demonstrating expertise in developing and implementing successful school improvement plans, resulting in improved student performance and increased School Performance Scores from an F to a C rating.

Glen Oaks Middle School - Reconstituted School, EBR Parish Schools**Jul 2006 – Jul 2008***Principal / Assistant Principal*

- Demonstrated effective leadership as a Principal/Assistant Principal in a reconstituted school with an approximate student population of 700 and staff of 75.
- Developed and implemented successful strategies to improve student performance, resulting in an increase in school performance score.
- Fostered a positive school culture through effective communication and collaboration with teachers, staff, parents, and community stakeholders.
- Managed the school budget, ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- Coordinated and facilitated professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance instructional practices and student learning outcomes.
- Provided ongoing support and evaluation of teachers and staff to ensure alignment with school and district goals and objectives.

Glen Oaks High School**Jul 2001 – Jun 2006***Magnet Coordinator / High School Teacher*

- Successfully led the Medical and Architectural Magnet Program at Glen Oaks High School, ensuring high academic standards and providing students with a rigorous and engaging learning experience.
- Created and implemented effective curriculum plans and instructional strategies that aligned with state standards and promoted student achievement.
- Worked collaboratively with school administrators, teachers, and parents to establish and maintain a positive school culture that emphasized academic excellence, respect, and diversity.
- Managed the day-to-day operations of the Magnet Program, including student enrollment, scheduling, and teacher support.
- Maintained accurate records and documentation related to student progress, attendance, and behavior, using data to inform instructional decisions and support student success.
- Participated in ongoing professional development opportunities to stay abreast of best practices in curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and to continuously improve teaching and leadership skills.

**EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Student-- *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana* **Major:** *Educational Leadership and Research (PK-12 Focus)*

August 2025 to Present

Master of Education Degree – *Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana* **Major:** *Educational Administration and Supervision*

July 2004

Bachelor of Education Degree – *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana* **Major:** *Secondary Education with concentration in Biology*

May 2001**CERTIFICATIONS**

- Louisiana Teaching Certificate Type A, Biology and General Sciences
- Principal (K-12)
- Louisiana School Turnaround Specialist
- AASA National Principal Supervisor Certification
- Educational Leader Level II
- Eligible for Educational Leader Level III-Superintendent Certification
- Louisiana Superintendent's Academy Member
- Teaching Certificate and Praxis scores available upon request