



Cynthia Saunders
Superintendent of Schools
Biography

Cynthia Saunders was sworn in as Superintendent of the School District of Manatee County on an interim basis on June 28, 2018, following the departure of former Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene, who was named Superintendent in Duval County.

On February 12, 2019, the School Board approved a contract to retain Ms. Saunders as the fulltime Superintendent moving forward. Board members cited her performance as Superintendent during the previous seven months, her in-depth knowledge of issues confronting the school district and the fact that her leadership would bring a sense of stability to the district as strong reasons for her continued service.

Ms. Saunders has more than 28 years of professional experience in education as a teacher, assistant principal and principal as well as in district leadership positions in curriculum and staff development and as an Executive Director of Secondary Schools. Prior to becoming Superintendent, Ms. Saunders served as Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Services in Manatee County from July 2015 to June 2018.

During her tenure as Deputy Superintendent, the School District of Manatee County made significant gains academically. The Florida Department of Education gave the district a grade of “B” three of the last four years (2015, 2017, 2018) after receiving a grade of “C” the previous three years. In 2018, 90 percent of the 59 Manatee District schools to receive grades received either an “A, B or C” grade; the number of “D” schools dropped from 11 in 2017 to six in 2018; and for the second-consecutive year, not a single Manatee District school received an “F” grade. In addition, the Manatee District’s graduation rate rose from 77.9 percent in 2014-2015 to 83.5 percent for the 2016-2017 school year.

As Executive Director of Secondary Schools from 2013-2015, Manatee District high schools exceeded the state average in the percentage of high schools receiving an A or B grade. No Manatee District High School received less than a C grade during Mrs. Saunders tenure as Executive Director of Secondary Schools.

Ms. Saunders holds a Master’s Degree (M.S.) from Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor’s degree (B.S.) in Mathematics Education at the University of Central Florida.

Mrs. Saunders is married to George “Rock” Saunders. They have one son, Casey, and are proud grandparents.