



Dr. Jesus F. Jara
Superintendent of Schools
Clark County School District

Dr. Jesus F. Jara has a lifelong passion for creating better opportunities for all children through education, a passion whose roots extend into his own childhood. Having moved from Venezuela to Miami as an English-language learner, Dr. Jara faced many obstacles and challenges as he acclimated to the United States. His teachers, who were compassionate, inclusive, and set high expectations for all students, were a critical factor in his success.

The Board of Trustees for the Clark County School District (CCSD) appointed Dr. Jara as superintendent in June 2018. His contract has since been renewed by the Board to January 2023. Dr. Jara immediately met with employees, families, and community leaders to explore the needs of a school district serving more than 310,000 students in 368 school programs on 334 CCSD campuses. After a period of academic and operational review and extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders, Dr. Jara worked with the Board of School Trustees on a revised strategic plan -- Focus: 2024 -- with more specific goals to accelerate student success.

Dr. Jara led CCSD through the crisis created by COVID-19 and the sudden closure of schools in March of 2020. In an open and transparent process, he included all stakeholders to reopen schools safely, and kept access and equity as top priorities. Dr. Jara credits the strong commitment of CCSD's 42,000 employees and their relentless passion to serve with the ability to overcome countless obstacles, including budget reductions. Through innovative approaches to collaboration and funding, CCSD was able to get every student connected with devices and internet connectivity. While acknowledging the mental health impact the pandemic has had on students, Dr. Jara has been a national leader in seeking out solutions for students. He engaged the support of nationally recognized mental health professionals and held forums in both English and Spanish to get the community involved in this important work.

As the District reopened schools for face-to-face instruction in the spring of 2021, Superintendent Jara remained committed to providing all students and their families with educational options through classroom and distance learning instruction. Along with all schools reopening in the fall of 2021 for in-person instruction, Dr. Jara announced the

creation of a pilot program in CCSD that will allow 17 schools to establish blended learning opportunities for students in elementary, middle, and high schools around the valley.

Dr. Jara actively engaged with legislative leaders during the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session to advocate for the needs of District students. As a result of the legislative session, public education saw the single largest increase of funding in Nevada history with approximately \$500 million allocated for education. This funding will help the state transition from the outdated Nevada Plan to the new Pupil Centered Funding Plan. Additionally, under Dr. Jara's leadership and for the first time in over 20 years, all District-sponsored bills passed during the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session.

Dr. Jara is leading CCSD as it builds systems of support and job-embedded coaching for its teachers. CCSD is forging partnerships to provide the infrastructure for instructional leaders to grow and focus on high-quality instruction. The District is also channeling its dollars into the classrooms and creating needed efficiencies in its procedures and operations. CCSD is investing in its aging infrastructure and beginning renovations at schools 20 years or older. These improvements will impact over 35 campuses districtwide, many of which serve some of the most at-risk student population in Southern Nevada. Just as important, CCSD will continue to engage all of its stakeholders through transparency.

Dr. Jara has been serving public school students for over 20 years. He previously served as the deputy superintendent for Orange County Public Schools in Florida for six years. With his assistance, Orlando's achievement gap narrowed faster than 90 percent of major cities across the United States, according to the Education Quality Index.

During his two-year tenure as the former superintendent and chief operations officer in Monroe County Public Schools, the school district increased participation and performance in Advanced Placement and Algebra I. As executive director of the College Board's Florida Partnership, Dr. Jara was responsible for coordinating College Board services to provide equity and access to minority and underrepresented students across the state.

He began his career in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, where he was a bilingual biology teacher and coach, before moving to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he served as assistant principal and principal. As principal of the High School of Science and Technology, he improved Advanced Placement course offerings and the graduation rate. In 2005, the high school was a semifinalist for a College Board Inspiration Award.

Dr. Jara is an active member of the community, which includes serving on the board of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, Workforce Connections - Southern Nevada's Local Workforce Development Board, and the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services Division of Child and Family Services Children's Commission.

He serves on the executive board of the Council of the Great City Schools and is co-chair of the council's English Language Learners and Bilingual Education Task

Force. He also serves on the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Desert Chapter's Light The Night Executive Leadership Committee.

He received his Doctorate in Education, Educational Policy, Leadership, and Administration from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.