

Tawana Grover, Ph.D.

“A leader who creates vision, unity, and direction to navigate transformational change”

Tawana Grover is superintendent of Grand Island Public Schools in Grand Island, Nebraska, a district of over 10,000 students. Prior to becoming a superintendent in 2016, she served leadership roles in DeSoto Independent Schools — a suburban district of Dallas, Texas, with 10,000 students — as chief human resource officer, executive director of federal programs, director of special programs, and principal.

Grover championed equity work within the Grand Island Public Schools district to accelerate her mission of creating a level playing field for every student and launched the district’s inaugural strategic plan. Her work led to the development of a district Equity Value Statement, a resolution on eliminating racism that was adopted by the Board of Education, and the formation of a district equity framework. She increased student achievement in 75 percent of “Needs Improvement” schools and increased the number of students scoring 20 or above on the ACT by 5.4 percent within two years.

Grover earned a Ph.D. in special education from the University of North Texas; an Ed.S. in educational leadership from Doane University in Nebraska; an Ed.S. in elementary/educational leadership from Auburn University - Montgomery; and M.S. and B.S. degrees in elementary education, both from Auburn University - Montgomery.