

BRIAN S. GRAHAM, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS | STUDENT-CENTERED EXECUTIVE LEADER

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Student-centered superintendent with nearly four decades in public education, including 24 years in school and district administration and 10 years leading a high-performing suburban district. Proven record of steady Board partnership, transparent community engagement, strategic planning, fiscal stewardship, instructional leadership, capital improvement, and organizational development. Former special education teacher and pupil-services leader who brings deep expertise in inclusive practice and whole-child success. Regional association president, author, adjunct professor, podcaster, and national presenter known for pairing innovation with sound judgment, ethical leadership, and a relentless focus on students.

BOARD GOVERNANCE • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE • FISCAL STEWARDSHIP • COMMUNITY TRUST • TALENT DEVELOPMENT • FUTURE-READY INNOVATION

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Superintendent of Schools | Grand Island Central School District, Grand Island, NY

2016-Present

Chief executive for in a district with five schools serving approximately 2,800 students with 500+ employees and an adopted 2026-27 budget of \$81.2 million.

- Partner with a seven-member Board of Education to establish goals, clarify governance roles, shape policy, evaluate organizational performance, and maintain a culture of transparency and accountability.
- Led a broad stakeholder process to create and implement a five-year strategic plan; aligned subsequent Board priorities and district improvement work through a public Blueprint for Excellence.
- Guided the district through a 2026 budget revote by listening to community concerns, supporting a \$500,000 revision and a reduced 1.50% tax-levy increase, and communicating a student-centered plan that passed by nearly a two-to-one margin without classroom program cuts.
- Secured voter approval and oversaw implementation of a \$24.1 million capital improvement program, including enhanced security entrances, a multi-sport synthetic complex, and renovations across all schools.
- Strengthened academic programming through curriculum and course audits, vertical alignment, data-informed improvement, leadership development, and targeted supports designed to promote growth for every learner.
- Expanded districtwide systems for student safety, belonging, mental-health and family support, emergency preparedness, access control, and responsible use of emerging safety technologies.
- Built accessible, two-way communication through frequent school and classroom visits, student advisory structures, community surveys, public forums, weekly updates, and the district podcast Inspiring Viking Values.
- Positioned the district for responsible innovation through educator learning, AI literacy, ethical governance, instructional pilots, and partnerships with higher education and regional organizations.

PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services | West Seneca Central School District, West Seneca, NY

2013-2016

- Directed special education, student services, related services, Section 504, alternative programming, parent engagement, and legal/regulatory compliance across a large suburban district.
- Advised the superintendent and Board on complex student matters, staffing, program design, due process, placements, budgeting, and cross-agency partnerships; emphasized early intervention and inclusive practice.
- Supervised and developed administrators and multidisciplinary teams while strengthening consistency, communication, and accountability across schools.

Principal, West Middle School | West Seneca Central School District, West Seneca, NY

2006-2013

- Led a comprehensive middle school improvement agenda centered on collective trust, professional learning communities, curriculum mapping, student voice, and responsive supports.
- Designed and scaled student-led portfolio conferences, replacing traditional parent conferences with a student-centered model that deepened ownership, reflection, and family engagement.
- Advanced the school through a Schools to Watch self-study process and presented nationally on middle-level leadership and curriculum improvement.

Principal, Winchester Elementary School | West Seneca Central School District, West Seneca, NY

2002-2006

- Led literacy, special education inclusion, professional learning, and family partnership initiatives in a diverse elementary setting.
- Built collaborative systems for instructional planning and intervention while maintaining a highly visible and responsive presence with students, staff, and families.

Adjunct Professor | Niagara University and Daemen University, Western New York

2002-2012; 2026

- Prepared aspiring teachers and school leaders in graduate programs focused on instructional leadership, organizational learning, responsible AI use, and reflective practice.

Special Education Teacher and Employment-Skills Coordinator | Heritage Centers, Erie 1 BOCES, and Alden CSD, Western New York

1986-2002

- Served students with a wide range of disabilities for 16 years, including learners with significant physical and developmental needs; designed inclusive, transition, employment, and family-centered supports.
- Received the AbleNet Inclusion Award for work enhancing quality of life and access for people with severe disabilities.

SELECTED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- President, Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association (2024-2026); previously Vice President and active regional convener for superintendent learning, advocacy, and student recognition.
- External Advisory Board Member, University at Buffalo National AI Institute for Exceptional Education; contributor to regional and national conversations on ethical, inclusive AI in education.
- Co-Chair, Grand Island School Business Alliance; Board Member, Grand Island Rotary; leader of the Growing Readers partnership placing books in the hands of infants and toddlers.
- Podcast Host, Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools and Inspiring Viking Values, amplifying student, educator, community, and leadership voices.

EDUCATION AND NEW YORK STATE CERTIFICATION

Doctor of Educational Leadership, D'Youville College - Dissertation: Implementation of an Effort Program to Increase Middle School GPA	2015
Advanced Certification in Educational Leadership (SDA/SAS), Buffalo State College	2003
Master of Science in Special Education, Buffalo State College	1990
Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education, Daemen College	1986

Permanent Certifications: New York State School District Administrator; School Administrator/Supervisor; Elementary Education (N-6); Special Education (N-12).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Editor and contributing author, The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Emerging Technologies and Trends in Education (2025).
- Author, "Artificial Intelligence in Education: Transforming Learning and Teaching in the Post-Covid Era," in Meaningful Work in a Post-Covid Age (Emerald Publishing, 2026).
- Selected presentations: NYSCOSS Winter Institute (2026); AASA AI Super Summit (2025); NYSCOSS and RTM Superintendent Forum (2023); National Middle School Conference (2010); Curriculum Mapping Institute (2008, 2010).
- Frequent keynote and workshop facilitator for superintendents, boards, administrators, and educators on leadership, governance, strategic communication, innovation, and responsible AI.

SELECTED RECOGNITION AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Grand Island Chamber of Commerce – Citizen of the Year (2023)
- Western New York Educational Service Council Superintendent Award (2019).
- Erie County Association of School Boards / Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award (2019), recognizing the Growing Readers partnership.
- West Seneca Lions Club Community Service Award;
- West Seneca Kiwanis Recognition of Educational Leadership;
- Coach of the Year.
- More than three decades of volunteer leadership supporting children and families through literacy, civic, youth sports, holiday giving, and community relief initiatives.