



New London Public Schools

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NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELCOMES DR. MANUEL J. RIVERA AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

New London – Dr. Manuel J. Rivera, a nationally recognized leader in education and National Superintendent of the Year, started today as Superintendent of Schools.

“I am excited about this new challenge and look forward to working with all staff and our many community, business and college partners to build one of the best school systems in the country,” Rivera said.

Rivera, a New London native and 1970 graduate of New London High School, was slated to start in the district on Monday although inclement weather closed the schools.

Passionate about improving the learning environment for children, teachers, and school leaders, Dr. Rivera began his career in education as a teacher with the Rochester City School District in 1975 and later served as both a school and district administrator.

"I am looking forward to the arrival of our new Superintendent. As we embark on an all magnet district, I believe he will bring experience, talent and compassion to our school community," Board of Education President Margaret Mary “Peg” Curtin said.

In his tenure as Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools, Dr. Rivera doubled the number of students in summer school programs this school year with the addition of a second site focused on early literacy; opened the State’s first P-TECH model school, Norwalk Early College Academy; advanced new technology systems in all schools; brought more than \$2 million in foundation funding; and went live with a new ParentPortal and mobile application.

“The New London Education Association (NLEA) looks forward to working with Dr. Rivera. We are happy to have a New London High School Alumni as our Superintendent,” Rich Baez, NLEA President said. “We wish him well and offer our support in his efforts to move New London Schools forward as Connecticut’s first all magnet district. Our excellent students, parents, teachers and related staff are ready to move to be the pride of Connecticut under Dr. Rivera’s leadership.”

In 1991, he was first named Rochester Superintendent of Schools, a position he held until entering the private sector in 1994.

Dr. Rivera joined Edison Schools, Inc., the country's leading private manager of public schools. He served on Edison's management team, supervising all Edison-partnership principals, overseeing school finances and budgets, and designing and implementing the company's professional and leadership development team. In 1998, he was named Executive Vice President for Development, responsible for developing partnership and management agreements with new clients.

In 2002, after a national search, the Rochester Board of Education named him Superintendent of Schools, a position he held until April 30, 2007. During this time, he was recognized for his many accomplishments and named the New York State Superintendent of the Year by the New York State Council of School Superintendents in December 2005. In 2006, Rivera was named the National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Superintendents.

At the urging of the newly elected Governor for the State of New York, Dr. Rivera remained in the State of New York and served as the Governor's Senior Education Policy Advisor and Deputy Secretary for Education. He drafted new legislation and shaped policy to advance best practices in education (to improve leadership, teacher quality and school improvement planning) and create a child centered agenda throughout the State. Rivera also provided oversight to the complex state funding formula and the allocation of state funds to 690 school districts. He and Geoffrey Canada, President of the Harlem Children's Zone, co-chaired the Governor's Children's Cabinet. Rivera's portfolio also included the State University of New York's multiple higher education campuses.

During the period between August 2008 and April 2013, Dr. Rivera served as the Chief Executive Officer for Education Learning Alliance and each of its four subsidiaries (GEMS Americas, Inc., Global Partnership Schools, Inc., Gems Education Solutions, Inc., and Little Gems International-Lincoln Park). GEMS Education is an international company and operates a network of nearly 100 K-12 schools in nine countries and is involved in school improvement work through their private public partnership initiative.

As CEO, Dr. Rivera led the start-up of each of these companies to provide services to public schools and public school students (extended learning programs, school turnaround and transformation, and other services). In addition, he led the opening of Little Gems International, GEMS' first early childhood learning center in the US,

Rivera earned both his doctorate in education in Administration, Planning & Social Policy and his master's degree in education from Harvard University. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Brandeis University.

New London Public Schools welcomes Dr. Rivera and is looking forward to his leadership.

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