

**Dr. Damaris Rau**  
**Superintendent, School District of Lancaster**

With over 35 years of experience in public education, Dr. Damaris Rau is a seasoned veteran when it comes to setting the standard for student achievement. Known for her passion in urban education and commitment to equity for all students, Dr. Rau has a proven track record of reducing the achievement gap, increasing graduation rates, expanding early childhood programs, implementing programs to reduce bullying behaviors, and successfully turning around low performing schools.

Dr. Rau began her career as a classroom teacher, Central Office Coordinator and Assistant Principal in the Bronx, New York before becoming an Instructional Leader and Principal in Greenwich, Connecticut. After a short time in suburban education, Dr. Rau returned to her urban roots in New Haven, Connecticut where she was the Executive Director of Schools PreK-12 before being named Superintendent of the School District of Lancaster in July 2015. Her focus areas in the SDoL include: Equity, Inclusion & Excellence; improving our curricula in ELA and Math; and developing school leaders to support effective teaching practices.

Having been a foster child, Dr. Rau understands the positive impact education has on student success. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from St. John's University, Master's Degree in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from Hunter College, an Administrative Certificate from the College of New Rochelle, Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University, and her Superintendent's Certification from the University of Connecticut.