

Dr. Carmen Ayala

Dr. Carmen Ayala is now serving as the State Superintendent of Education. Appointed by the State Board of Education in 2019, she was previously serving as the Superintendent of Berwyn North School District 98 where she steadily turned around lower-performing schools.

Her 36-year education career began as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. Since then, she has served as Assistant Superintendent in Aurora East School District 131 and at Plainfield District 202. Dr. Ayala was an executive board member for the Latino Policy Forum where she championed equitable funding and increased resource for English Learners.

She has held positions on numerous boards and committees, including the Illinois State Board of Education Bilingual Advisory Council, Illinois Women in Educational Leadership, Illinois Resource Center, and the Illinois Professional Review Panel for Evidence-Based Funding. Dr. Ayala has received multiple honors, including the 2018 Leadership Award and the Excellence in Education Award from the League of Latin American Citizens, as well as the Kane County Distinguished Educator award.

Her degrees are from Mundelein College, Dominican University, and Loyola University where she earned her doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies.