

Resume

Janice E. DeFrances

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Summary

Can foster an environment for creative change, school reform, and parental involvement

Has leadership, management, and budget-related skills to motivate the professional staff and ensure productivity and accountability

Deals directly, openly and fairly with staff, students and parents

Holds student achievement as the top priority

Effective communicator who values input from all stakeholders

Expect s excellence and has the confidence and skill to guide the work of a strong and dedicated faculty and staff

Employs a hands-on-approach as a highly-visible leader

Views the Board and Community as full partners in the education of the district's children

Possesses a track record of successful leadership that is child focused

EDUCATION

Post Doctorate Degree in Neuropsychology 2008

Fielding Institute, Santa Barbara, California

Doctor of Education. Special Education/Administration 1988

Boston University, Boston, MA.

Master of Education. Special Education/Behavior and Emotional Disorders. 1980

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.

Master of Arts. Counseling and Guidance.

University of RI, Kingston, RI

1977

Bachelor of Arts. Psychology/Elementary Education.

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 1975

Junior Year Abroad/McGill University, Quebec, Canada

CAREER HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENT

Director. Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families 8/18/2011 - Present

The Director of the Department of Children, Youth and Families oversees all child welfare (including child protective services), children's behavioral health and juvenile justice programs for the State of Rhode Island including all support services associated with licensing of child care and residential programs, contracting, prevention services and coordinated systems of care. The Department directly services an average of 11,000 children and families each year and indirectly services thousands more through funding of community based support programs with a state staff of 600+ and a combined state/federal budget of over \$233,000,000.

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Committees

- Child Welfare Committee
- Health Care Policy Forum (Fostering Connections) Committee
- Joint Talk Force on the Education of Children & Youth in DCYF Care
- Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
- Governor's Early Learning Council
- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- FCCP Statewide Family Care Advisory Board

CEO/President. Harmony Hill School, Inc., Chepachet, RI

7/6/2006 to
8/18/2011

Super vision of administrative leadership team
Co-director of Psychological Diagnostic Associates
Responsible for 156 staff members/\$9 million non-profit budget
Liaison with state and national agencies
Leads strategic planning of the agency
Overseer of all capital improvements and program development
Direct all aspects of day, residential and community programming

Principal. Narragansett Elementary School, Narragansett, RI

8/96 – 6/06

Supervision of all personnel
Participated in contract negotiations
Mentor Principal with the Big Picture Company
Chairperson 504/Cap/Cast
Responsible for curriculum, instruction, and professional development
NEASC Accreditation; SALT visit;
Directed and orchestrated \$4.7 million dollar budget
Committees: School Improvement Team; District Curriculum Committee;
District Literacy; Professional Development; District Strategic Planning;
Teacher Evaluation; Professional Learning Community/Examining Student
Work
Title I Coordinator/District 504 Coordinator from '96-04
800 student enrollment (96) -531 (06) PreK- Grade 4

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**Administrator of Special Services, Narragansett School District,
Narragansett, RI 8/94-8/96 (Preschool-Grade 12; 400 students)**

Responsible for administration of all special education services
Development and implementation of inclusionary programs K-12
Development of preschool and integrated kindergarten model
Facilitation of interagency collaboration
Designed and implemented programs for middle and high school students
with behavioral and social needs
Interpret laws and regulations both on the Federal and State level for
students, parents, and staff
Oversee related services and coordinated extended school year program

**Principal, Quidnessett Elementary School, North Kingstown, RI.
(92-94)**

Educational leader and supervisor
Chair MDT and IEPs; Health committee K-12; LRE/Strategic Planning;
member of School Improvement Team; Reading Week Coordinator; Staff
Development Committee member

**Assistant Executive Director-Harmony Hill; Special Education
Coordinator-Chariho School District; Principal/Special Education
Director-Harmony Hill School. Special Education Resource
Teacher-Exeter School District; Kindergarten Teacher-Montreal,
Quebec. Therapist, South Shore Mental Health, Charlestown, RI.**

FACILITATOR EXPERIENCE

Annenberg Principal/National School Reform Faculty

**SmART Faculty for Collaborative Leadership/Critical Friends Coach
Training**

Facilitator for National School Leaders Network

National Certified Principal Mentor/NAESP/PAL

CERTIFICATES

Superintendent of Schools
Director of Special Education
Teacher of Elementary Education, K-8
Elementary/Middle School Principal
Guidance counselor
Crisis Prevention Instructor
Aspiring Superintendent Certificate/JW
PALS NAESP Principal Mentor

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GRANTS/AWARDS

Champlin Grant; RI Foundation; Laura Bush Foundation; Legislative Grants

Principal of the Year in RI/2000

Early Reading Success Initiative-Federal Grant

RI Foundation Grant for National Museum of Art

RISD Faculty Grant for Reggio Emilio, Italy

RITTI; Rotarian; RISCA; RIDE Inclusion Grant; RI VSA; Mellon

Collaborative Grant with South Kingstown-WRAP-DCYF

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Fund raising/Development Committee, Hope Center, Cranston, RI**
- **Board Member-City Arts, Providence, RI**
- **Advisory Board Member-RICANN**

1998-2002 North Kingstown School Committee member-representative for Special Education Advisory; Policy committee; paraprofessional association; SORICO; National School Board Affiliate

2004-2008 North Kingstown School Committee/Chairperson/ Vice Chairperson/Policy Committee; Strategic Planning Committee

1997-2001 Board Member of RI Association for Prevention of Child Abuse

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Principals Learning Network-Brown University

Association of RI Administrators in Special Education

Council for Exceptional Children

National Staff Development Council

Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development

International Reading Association

National School Leadership Network

International Neurological Society

Brain and Learning Network

National Association of Elementary School Principals

R.I. Association of Elementary School Principals

Complete Aspiring Superintendent program at Johnson & Wales University (2009)

Member of National Association of Special Education Schools

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1986-current – Part-Time Professor at RISD, Graduate MAT program of Teaching and Learning in Art and Design. Lifespan I and II; Child and Adolescent Development /Human Exceptionality

2002-current-Faculty/Graduate Program/ Providence College. The Psychology of the Middle School Student/EDU 583: Applied Data Analysis; Mental Health Issues in our Schools

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2000-2003-Faculty/Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership/Johnson and Wales University. Educational Research.

1979-1982-Instructor/College of Human Sciences/URI. Adolescent Growth and Development HCF 310; Family Interaction HCF 450; Personal Development HCF 150; Introduction to Counseling HCF 430.

1990-1995-Instructor. RI College. The Handicapped in Society and School/Contemporary Issues; Advance Applied Behavioral Analysis (89); Behavioral Management 310.

Visiting Professor-University of Hartford-Summer Session Hart School

PRESENTATIONS

- **Teaching, Reaching, Inspiring Workshop for City Arts, Providence, RI 2010.**
- **Executive Function Disorders=What to do!!!Providence Center, RI 2010.**
- **Dealing with Mental Health Issues in our Schools, RIASP Summer Conference, 2009.**

Presentation on Dealing with Behavioral Issues in the Classroom for Teacher Assistants. Exeter/West Greenwich School District (9/08)

Keynote for New England's Nurses Association. Newport, RI. No Child Left Behind-Addressing the Holistic Education of the Child. (5/08)

Executive Functioning Disorders. ARISE Leadership Conference, Newport, RI (11/07)

Keynote/Workshop on Literacy and the Visual Arts. Clinton, Ohio. (10/07)

Special Education Orientation-Dealing with Behavior Disorders. (9/07)

SmART School-Critical Friend Training/Professional Learning Communities. Vermont. (5/07)

Looking at Students' Work. Warwick Administrative Team. (5/07)

National School Reform Faculty/Collaborative Assessment (9/04)

(03-97) Keywords-A Collaborative Approach, NSBA, San Francisco, Calif.; The Principal Learning Network, Anaheim, Calif.; Care for the Caregiver, URI Nursing Faculty; Panelist with D.Fleming-Examining Student Work, RIASP; SmART Training Summer Institute; NAEA-Using Collaborative Assessment Protocol to Look at Student Work, NY; 504 Accommodations; Keynote for RI Paraprofessional Conference; Functional Behavioral Analysis, Newport Special Education.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

First Mandolin for Providence Mandolin Orchestra. RI/International/USA Concerts (1978-2006)

Psychomotricia Training

Writing/Research in Healing and Trauma

REFERENCES

Both personal and professional references are available upon request.