

Marisa Mendonsa



Licensure

- Massachusetts: Teacher of History/Social Studies (5-9) (9-12)
- Massachusetts Administrative Licensure, Principal/Assistant Principal (5-8) (9-12)
- Massachusetts Administrative Licensure, Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent (all levels)

Education

Springfield College, Springfield, MA—Bachelor of Science, History	<i>May 1997</i>
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA—M.Ed. Multicultural/Bilingual/ESL	<i>March 2005</i>
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA—C.A.G.S. Educational Leadership	<i>May 2011</i>
American University, Washington, D.C.—EdD, Education Policy and Leadership	<i>May 2022</i>

Leadership Experience

Deputy Superintendent

Pittsfield Public Schools

November 2021–Present

- Oversee building principals and ensure the effectiveness of their instructional leadership; 13 schools including 8 elementary, 2 middle schools, 2 high schools and one virtual K-12 school
- Monitor implementation of the District Improvement and School Improvement Plans
- Oversee Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives including professional development and bias review trainings
- Evaluate and assess the implementation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan
- Aid in developing and supervising the operation of federally funded programs
- Coordinate the continuing study of staffing needs as a basis for projecting personnel requirements
- Monitor the administration of student discipline following the Code of Conduct, Character and Support
- Address and mediate caregiver concerns and serve as a conduit between school and home
- Process home education proposals and out of district placements
- Coordinate the fulfillment by principals of their responsibilities in the budget process
- Investigate parental complaints
- Serve as liaison between the State Systems of Support Team with building principals and directors
- Member of the Superintendent's Cabinet
- Oversee grants programming including budget and implementation
- Serve as McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison
- Oversee school choice including approval of intra-district school choice process
- Oversee and monitor the registration process for new students
- Supervise district Family Engagement and Attendance Coordinators
- Supervise district Coordinator of School Counseling
- Supervise district Emergency and Safety Coordinator
- Design and implement a reimagining process for middle school programming
- Monitor athletic programming
- Oversee the Coordinator of Arts Integration and Community Programming
- Serve as district liaison for the School Committee Policy Subcommittee
- Monitor 21st Century After School federally funded programming
- Supervise and evaluate summer school programming for Special Education students, multilingual learners, credit recovery, and enrichment activities

- Monitor district Student Support Team
- Member of District Equity Task Force
- Assume the authority and responsibilities of the Superintendent in their absence

Principal

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

August 2016–November 2022

- Lead writer for the Mass IDEAS Implementation Grant award of \$450,000 (FY22); \$375,000 (FY21); Planning Grant (FY20) award of \$150,000; and Mini-Grant (\$14,500) to reimagine and redesign the high school experience.
- Facilitate the development of an anti-racist school based strategic plan through a partnership with Firefly Worldwide Inc.
- Coordinate partnerships with EL Education and Next Generation Learning Challenges to support redesigning our high school experience.
- Design and implement a distributive leadership model where faculty/staff/student/community voices are included and represented in decision making.
- Facilitate implementation of heterogeneous classes at high school level to provide an inclusive and rigorous curriculum for all learners.
- Member of the district strategic planning team.
- Foster transition to inquiry-based learning for all subject areas including math to increase rigor and support a diverse learning community.
- Member of the district's computer science stakeholder committee to expand computer science programming and Advanced Placement STEM courses grades 7-12.
- Supervise Restorative Practices Center to increase interventions and decrease external suspensions.
- Implement training and design goals to become a Resiliency (trauma-informed) School.
- Investigate student complaints including disciplinary, bullying, biased incidents, and Title IX violations.
- Oversee the implementation of middle and high school athletic programs.
- Manage and coordinate school's safety procedures in coordination with local police and fire departments.
- Oversee student attendance and graduation requirements.
- Lead administrator for special education programming and services.
- Lead administrator of student activities and student discipline.
- Piloted co-principal model in which two principals oversaw all operations of the building.
- Facilitate School Council—a representative body of students, teachers, families and community members.
- Manage the implementation of standards-based curriculum and assessments.
- Utilize all available resources within the district and the community to develop new and improve the effectiveness of existing educational programs.
- Oversee the implementation of the Massachusetts teacher evaluation system which includes announced and unannounced observations, as well as formative and summative assessments.
- Design and manage staffing plans.
- Coordinate and supervise support services such as maintenance, security, food services, recreational programs, library activities, and financial and accounting functions, etc.
- Successfully foster relationships with families and community members.
- Mentor principal candidates for licensure in the state of Massachusetts.
- Serve as liaison between the school and the Superintendent.

Principal

Amherst Regional Middle School, Amherst, MA

July 2014–July 2016

- Redesigned school schedule to meet the needs of diverse learners.
- Facilitated the use of restorative practices to increase interventions and improve school climate.
- Implemented co-teaching model to support the needs of all students including Special Education and ELL students.
- Facilitated monthly Curriculum Leader meetings and weekly school climate meetings.
- Managed the implementation of standards-based curriculum and assessments.

- Utilized all available resources within the school system and the community to develop new and improve the effectiveness of existing educational programs.
- Implemented the Massachusetts teacher evaluation system, including announced and unannounced observations as well as formative and summative assessments.
- Designed and implemented new teacher orientation and provided ongoing professional development for new teachers.
- Designed and managed staffing plan.
- Prepared school budget requests and monitored expenditures of funds.
- Coordinated and supervised support services such as maintenance, security, food services, recreational programs, library activities, and financial and accounting functions, etc.
- Assessed school's technology needs to meet statewide standards and support learning.
- Mentored Principal interns.
- Successfully fostered relationships with families and community members.
- Served as a liaison between the school and the Superintendent.

Principal

John J. Duggan Middle School, Springfield, MA

July 2012–June 2014

- Wrote and implemented a school redesign plan in conjunction with the Center for Collaborative Education.
- Lead Administrator for the implementation of the Expeditionary Learning Model.
- Designed and oversaw implementation of a Federal Magnet Schools Assistance application to transition Duggan Middle School to a grades 6-12 High School with a social justice and Expeditionary Learning focus.
- Oversaw the implementation of the Massachusetts teacher evaluation system which includes announced and unannounced observations as well as formative and summative assessments.
- Designed and managed staffing plan.
- Executed a tiered coaching plan and mentored Instructional Coaches for implementation.
- Facilitated the Instructional Leadership Team.
- Developed a year-long Professional Development Plan to support the EL model, and the transfer to the Common Core.
- Managed the implementation of standards-based curriculum and assessments.
- Utilized all available resources within the school system and the community to develop new and improve the effectiveness of existing educational programs.
- Effectively led an administrative team consisting of two Deans of Students and two Assistant Principals.
- Prepared and submitted the school's budgetary requests and monitored expenditures of funds.
- Coordinated and supervised support services such as maintenance, security, food services, recreational programs, library activities, and financial and accounting functions, etc.
- Assessed and determined the technology needs of the school to meet statewide standards and support learning.
- Successfully fostered relationships with families and community members.
- Served as liaison between the school and the Superintendent.

Assistant Principal

John J. Duggan Middle School, Springfield, MA

August 2011–June 2012

- Lead administrator for the implementation of the Expeditionary Learning Model.
- Designed and supported the implementation of the school-wide Crew curriculum.
- Administrative liaison responsible for the conduct and academic progress for staff and students in grades 6 & 8.
- Successfully fostered relationships with families and community members.
- Conducted formal and informal teacher evaluations.
- Planned and presented monthly Professional Development that addressed the Expeditionary Learning core principles
- Member of the Instructional Leadership Team.
- Set agendas and facilitated team leader meetings.
- Oversaw the ELL program including scheduling, curriculum, and student progress.
- Served as the administrator in charge of middle school sports.

Governing Board Chair

April 2010–October 2011

The Springfield Renaissance School

- Set and facilitated monthly meetings that oversee the implementation of school policies and procedures.
- Managed the development of the school's strategic plan.
- Analyzed and reviewed school budgetary allocation.
- Collaborated with the Principal Evaluation Sub-Committee in gathering data to evaluate the principal.

Teaching Experience

Social Studies (M.S.) and History (H.S.) Teacher

August 2006–June 2011

The Springfield Renaissance School, Springfield, MA

- Founding staff member of an Expeditionary Learning School.
- AP U.S. History, 11th Grade U.S. History II and Honors U.S. History II and 6th and 8th grade Social Studies.
- Created interdisciplinary expedition units that connect students to specific aspects in the City of Springfield, including local food production, Native American history, and the Civil Rights Movement.
- Promoted multicultural and character education by co-facilitating the design of the school's Community Commitment document.
- Designed and taught standards-based curricular lessons and authentic assessments.
- Team Leader for grades 6, 8, and 11.

Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Melican Middle School, Northborough, MA

2003–2006

Amherst Regional Middle School, Amherst, MA

2000–2003

Teach For America, Rocky Mount, NC

1997–1999

Internships/Fellowships

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

October 2022 - Present

- Member of the Influence 100 future superintendents cohort
- Two-year program for diverse leaders to obtain the skills necessary to become equity minded leaders

Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland

November 2019–May 2021

- Intern with the Director of Equity and Excellence.
- Assist in the development of an Assistant Principal pipeline program with a focus on anti-racism.
- Identify the implementation gaps between systems-based theory and application in the development of a district-wide initiative.
- Provide recommendations for implementation and sustainability of the Assistant Principal pipeline program.

Conferences, Case Study Participation, Publications and Writings

- Presenter at Power of Truths: Arts and Education Festival: **Moving Beyond Statements: Disrupting White Supremacy Culture in Public Schools**
- Featured Case Study in **Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education -5th edition**, Spring 2011 by Sonia Nieto and Patty Bode
- 2010 11th Grade Expedition product entitled **Freedom Through Their Eyes: 50 Years of Civil Rights Perspectives in Springfield** archived with the Library of Congress in conjunction with The Smithsonian and the Civil Rights History Project Act of 2009
- Featured Case Study - Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy - **A New Era of Education Reform: Preparing All Students for Success in College, Career and Life**

- Co-author of the Springfield Public Schools African American History course curriculum

Trainings

- Restorative Practices— Trained facilitator through the International Institute of Restorative Practices.
- ALICE— Trained facilitator for ALICE response lockdown protocols.
- Restraint Training— Participated in state approved CPI restraint training.
- Sheltered English Immersion— Administrator, endorsement.

Organizations and Committees

- Massachusetts School Administrators' Association
- LGBTQ+ National Administrators' Network
- National Association of Secondary School Principals

Awards

- 2017 Institute for Educational Leadership— Massachusetts Education Policy Fellowship
- 2010 New England Multicultural Teacher of the Year