



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Minnesota Association of School Administrators
1844 Como Avenue
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse Superintendent Valeria Silva for Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. I have an extensive working relationship with Superintendent Silva and she has been a powerful leader for Saint Paul Public Schools and an outstanding partner with the City of Saint Paul. As a civic partner, the Superintendent has reached out to public officials, business leaders, philanthropic leaders and others to engage their support for public schools and to partner with them on other community initiatives. She has offered her expertise and that of her staff on important community projects such as the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood. As a partner with the city, she helped us launch a citywide out-of-school-time network with more than 40 youth-serving organizations. An important component of this effort is Community Education, a program designed to engage more youth in these programs and improve the quality of afterschool learning. Her leadership has helped make this a reality.

As the leader of the largest school district in the state, she has implemented a bold strategic plan designed to reduce disparities in resources and opportunities that lead to differences in outcomes for students of color. Some of the elements of this plan were not immediately popular, including reducing the number of magnet schools and creating more neighborhood-based schools. Her expansive vision has already led to academic improvements and diminished gaps in achievement between white students and students of color. Her efforts to engage parents in their children's education through the Parent Academy has been so impressive that the city committed funds to ensure that the program could be offered in all Saint Paul schools last year and this coming school year.

I am grateful to have Valeria Silva as a partner who is committed to improving the lives of Saint Paul youth and their families. As a mayor, I know that the academic success of our youth is an essential element of a prosperous and civically engaged community. I appreciate the strong, collaborative partnership I have with Superintendent Silva as we work together to improve the lives of youth in Saint Paul.

I hope you consider carefully Superintendent Valeria Silva as a candidate for Superintendent of the Year in Minnesota. Please feel free to contact Jane Eastwood, my Education Director, at 651-266-8516 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor