



**National Association of  
School Superintendents**  
United in Common Purpose: Each Other's Success

### **Name**

Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D.

### **Current School District and Location**

Central Regional School District, Bayville, New Jersey

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dr. Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder is the Central Regional School District Superintendent in Bayville, New Jersey. The district is known for its diversity and for being a limited regional school district for grades 7-12 that receives students from Berkeley Township, Island Heights, Seaside Park, Seaside Heights, and OceanGate. The District is also known for the tremendous support from the local business community, which allows our families to receive additional support they might not otherwise receive.

Michelle's ongoing drive to be a people-first leader, her extensive educational experience, and her life as a competitive athlete have prepared her for the superintendency.

### **Education**

B.A. - The College of William and Mary

M.S. Ed. - Old Dominion University

M.Ed. - Widener University

Ed.D. - Widener University

### **Experience**

Superintendent of Schools

Central Regional School District, Bayville, NJ

January 2024 - Present

Superintendent of Schools/ Director of Special Education

Somers Point School District, Somers Point, NJ

July 2018 - December 2023

Adjunct Professor (Education Leadership/ Special Education)

Stockton University, Pomona, NJ

2008-Present

PreK - 8th Principal/ Director of Special Education

Additional Duties: 504 Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Homeless Liaison, NJQSAC Leadership Team

Margate City School District, Margate, NJ

July 2009 - June 2018

Assistant Principal

Fernwood Avenue Middle School, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ

2005 - 2009

Learning Disability Teacher/ Consultant, Child Study Team Case Manager, 192-193 Services Case Manager for the District (non-School District), ESY Coordinator  
Galloway Township School District, Galloway, NJ  
2002 - 2005

Teacher of the Handicapped 7th-8th Grade Self-Contained, 7th-8th Grade Pullout Resource, 7th-8th Grade In-Class Support  
Brigantine School District, Brigantine, NJ  
1996 - 2002

Teacher of the Handicapped  
SECEP Alternative High School, Norfolk, VA Alternative High School - Severely Cognitively Impaired/  
Emotional Regulation Impairment  
1995-1996

Behavioral Paraprofessional  
SECEP Alternative High School, Norfolk, VA Alternative High School - Severely Cognitively Impaired/  
Emotional Regulation Impairment  
1994-1995

### **Outstanding Achievement(s)**

- 2025 District Administration Leadership Institute (DALI) — National School of Distinction in Wellness
- 2025 Central Regional High School and Middle School — Jostens Renaissance National School of Distinction, Gold Level
- 2024 Dawes Avenue Elementary — Jostens Renaissance National School of Distinction, Platinum Level
- 2024 Jordan Road Middle School — Jostens Renaissance National School of Distinction, Gold Level
- 2023 Dawes Avenue Elementary — Jostens Renaissance National School of Distinction, Gold Level
- 2022-2023 Atlantic County Superintendent of the Year
- 2018 Jostens Renaissance Hall of Fame
- 2007 Atlantic Weekly "Top 40 Under 40"

### **LEADERSHIP**

- 2025-Present New Jersey Association of School Administrators - State Chair for Special Education
- 2024-Present Ocean County Association of School Administrators - Legislative Co-Chair
- 2023-2024 President of the Atlantic County Association of School Administrators
- Atlantic County Legislative Representative for the New Jersey Association of School Administrators
- Co-President (Atlantic County) for the Women's Leadership Initiative

## **AN INTERVIEW**

### **Tell us about how you see today's superintendent.**

Today's superintendent has to be multi-faceted and always learning. For me, becoming a superintendent right before COVID-19, the ability to adjust while taking the heat of tough decisions is most important. You need to have thick armor and know that every decision you make is in the best interest of children, your primary customer. Being a

people-first leader is vital to helping meet your staff and students where they are — and supporting them in being in a better emotional place, especially when everyone is still carrying the weight of challenges that outlasted the pandemic itself.

At Central Regional School District, that reality has never been more evident. Since joining the district, I have navigated everything from staff transitions and community unrest to launching major academic initiatives — all while keeping culture, climate, and student outcomes at the center of every decision. Today's superintendent is not just an instructional leader or an operations manager — you are a communicator, a crisis responder, a culture architect, and a champion for every child in your community. Leadership, rather than strictly being a manager, is the key to success in this role.

### **What new understandings did you acquire after two or three years on the job?**

I have a deeper understanding of how important this position is to our students' academic growth. Many people, especially the staff you serve, need to understand how much goes into the superintendent's role. I had no idea how intense running a school district would be, especially when it's one of the largest businesses in a community.

At Central Regional, I have had the opportunity to put that understanding into action in powerful ways. Since May 2024, we have launched a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) pilot for grades 7–9, built out co-teaching and team teaching frameworks with dedicated professional development and coaching toolkits, and worked to establish systems that truly address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of our 2,188 students across five coastal communities. We have also strengthened our Jostens Renaissance programming, earning Gold Level National School of Distinction recognition for Central Regional High School and Middle School in 2025. None of that happens without a team that believes in the mission — and my job is to build and sustain that belief every single day. My eyes are wider open than ever, and I still love every challenge this work brings.

### **Share an idea to use or something you've learned with your colleagues.**

I learned early on that simply visiting classrooms and checking in on staff meant the world to them — and allowed me to support them in ways I never could have imagined from behind a desk. But I have also learned that culture is something you build deliberately, every single day, in every interaction.

At Central Regional, we call our staff and faculty our *Staffulty* — because the distinction between the two has never mattered as much as the unity of purpose we share. Our theme for the year is *Stay Golden, Eagles*, and our new school branding includes a motto we live every day: *Golden Eagles are LIMITLESS!* This is not just a tagline — it is a standard I hold myself to alongside everyone in our buildings. In the past year, we have invested deeply in professional development, progressive systems of support, and transparent communication with our school community — especially during difficult moments. What I have learned is that when people feel seen, heard, and genuinely valued, culture shifts. Climate improves. And students feel it. That is the work. That will always be the work.

### **Submitted by:**

*Mitchell Carney-Kay-Yoder, Ed.D.*

**Name/Signature**

3/4/2026

**Date**

