

Elizabeth Everitt, Ph.D.

M. Elizabeth Everitt, Ph.D. assumed her duties as superintendent of the Aiken County Public Schools in January 2008. She is the former superintendent of the Albuquerque Public School District for 4.5 years and served one year as part of a four member transition team there as well.

She received her MA and BA in special education from East Carolina University and her Ph.D. in Special Education and Public Administration, as well as her certification in Educational Administration from the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Everitt was an Assistant Principal and Principal for 10 years before being promoted to central administration. At the district level, she directed the areas of Special Education, Title I, Indian Education and English as a Second Language. She was the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction before her appointment as Superintendent for the Albuquerque Public Schools. In addition to her administrative positions Dr. Everitt was an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Mexico for many years.

Since arriving in Aiken, Dr. Everitt has focused on improving literacy programs, developing a stronger accountability system using student achievement data, and instituted learning walks at schools. Professional Learning Communities are embedded in schools and District life. Through focused programs and professional development, graduation rates have improved and alternative options for learning have expanded. Recent initiatives include the development of STEM and STEAM middle school magnets.

Additionally, the District's organizational structure has been redefined to direct more resources and support to schools. Under Dr. Everitt's leadership and with the unprecedented support of the community, a \$189 million one-cent capital sales

tax was passed. This is the first successful bond referendum since 1980.

Dr. Everitt has emphasized the need and importance of partnerships to support public education. She serves on a number of boards, including the Greater Chamber of Commerce, Aiken Technical College Commission, the University of S.C. at Aiken Commission, Public Education Partners Foundation and Aiken County First Tee.

Recent awards include the 2010 S.C. Outstanding Superintendent for Career and Technical Education and the 2011 Administrator of the Year for the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center. The White House honored Aiken County Public Schools, Aiken Technical College and MTU (a German manufacturing company) at a special program that showcased innovative CATE programs.

In 2015, the University of South Carolina at Aiken, named Dr. Everitt, Citizen of the Year.