

## NEW SUPERINTENDENT – MATTHEW MONTAÑO



Bernalillo Public Schools is pleased to welcome Mr. Matthew Montañó as our new Superintendent. Mr. Montañó grew up in our district and since graduating from Bernalillo High School, he has worn a number of hats in the Bernalillo community as an educator, policy-maker, and - perhaps most importantly - as a parent.

He started his career here as a substitute teacher while attending college nearby and then served in the district for more than 15 years, including 11 years as a paraprofessional and classroom teacher before he was promoted to school leadership, first as assistant principal at Bernalillo Middle School and later as Principal of Bernalillo High School.

His experience growing up and starting his career in Bernalillo taught him to always put students at the forefront of his work, and from his own experience in serving the Pueblo and Hispanic communities, he recognizes that a transformation of local public education systems is the single greatest opportunity to create equitable access for traditionally underserved students. He is eager to enhance an educational system that honors the deep roots of the diverse communities that make up Bernalillo Public Schools and ensuring that culturally responsive and sustaining practices are a focal point of engaging students, families, and broader stakeholders.

Mr. Montañó's successful tenure in Bernalillo, increasing math achievement by 12% and reading achievement by 8% while reducing discipline rates was a model for the state. After a decade and a half in Bernalillo, Mr. Montano took on a role with the State Education Department as the Director Educator Quality. In that role, he received national recognition for his work in measuring teacher effectiveness and training principals to improve coaching and support for teachers. Because of this work, he was promoted to Deputy Secretary for Teaching and Learning. Few leaders in the state or nation have a better understanding of the unique challenges and incredible opportunities afforded by a diverse district like ours.

Mr. Montañó is returning home to Bernalillo after spending the last three years as a senior-level administrator in the Texas Education Agency (TEA), where he served as the Deputy Commissioner of Special Populations and Monitoring. In this role, he oversees TEA's work to strengthen and support Special Education in Texas. He also supports districts providing

equitable educational experiences to more than 1 million English learners. His work there encompassed programs at all levels of the public education system involving students, parents, teachers, as well as campus-level and district-level administrators.

Mr. Montaña graduated from the University of New Mexico with a B.A. in History and Religion and received his M.A. in Special Education from the College of Santa Fe, with an emphasis on ED/BD students. He is a member of Chiefs for Change's Future Chief program which prepares bold, innovative leaders who are helping transform our nation's schools and preparing to lead large state or district education systems.

He is the proud father of Gabriella, Sophia, Antonio, and Lucia, all who completed their K-12 education in Bernalillo Public Schools.

Mr. Montaña's first day as Superintendent is scheduled for August 1, 2021.