

# Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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## **Dr. Jeff Pesta Named Administrator of Excellence**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Jeff Pesta, Superintendent of the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District, a 2019 Administrator of Excellence. Dr. Pesta received this award in recognition of his leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. He was honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 7-8, 2019, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Dr. Pesta’s achievements reflect his ability to lead important changes in the educational system. He has served as Superintendent of the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District since 2015. Dr. Pesta served 18 years as a principal, most recently at Northfield Middle School. Prior to beginning his career as a science teacher, Dr. Pesta served in the U.S. Army and has intermittently conducted field research on North Pacific Fisheries for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since 1990.

Dr. Pesta has received numerous awards and honors during his career. He received the 2017 MASA Richard Green Scholar Award for his dissertation titled, “Focusing on the Wrong Gap: Achievement or Assimilation?” His other awards include the 2018 Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Excellence in Four-Year Graduation Rate, 2017 MDE Certificate of Achievement for Due Process, 2013 MinnCAN Top 10 Award for English Learner Student Performance and Latino Student Performance, and the 2014 Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals Star for Innovation Award.

Dr. Pesta is an active MASA member and has participated in the MASA mentorship program, Great Start Cohort for new superintendents and administrators, and is a member of the Legislative Policy Sub-Committee.

Dr. Pesta earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of St. Thomas and holds a master’s degree in Science Education from the University of Minnesota. He received a bachelor’s degree in Biology and Business Administration at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota’s school leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of special education, and other central office administrators, as well as state department administrators, college and university professors, and other educators throughout Minnesota dedicated to educational leadership for students.

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