

Superintendent  
Matt Montaño



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Dear BPS Team-

It is with sincere humility and gratitude that I introduce myself. My name is Matt Montaño, and I have been appointed as the Superintendent of Bernalillo Public Schools. I am proudly returning to the community in which I was educated, raised my family, and spent the first 17 years of my career as a substitute teacher, paraprofessional, coach, teacher, and administrator.

As I thought about this letter, I contemplated discussing my background and accomplishments, so that you get to know me. This all felt uncomfortable. After all we have been through during the past year, I did not feel it was appropriate for the first correspondence of the year to be about me. Instead, as we enter this new school year, I want to focus on you, our professionals that will make this great educational opportunity a reality in the lives of our students.

First, let me thank each of you for how you have stepped up to provide the best experience possible under the most extraordinary circumstances. Prior to COVID, there was an adage about school. Basically, it operated under the premise that no matter what happens, when August or September comes around, the doors to the school would open and “school” would be in session. COVID disrupted this expectation like never before, but you, as professionals, were flexible, resilient, and resourceful.

The research is very clear that the most important school-controlled input that will result in student success is the teacher. While this is commonly understood, never before has the benefit of a teacher been realized than during the past 16 months. No matter what part of the country, the value of teachers became clearer to parents, principals, and most importantly students. With this renewed faith and value in our profession, we have a great opportunity to build upon the art and science of our work and increase greater confidence in what we do.

In addition to our teachers, our food services, transportation, and technology teams are paramount in ensuring the basic needs of our students were met as they faced quarantine. Our teams faced logistical issues, but we were innovative. Our transportation teams helped with food transport. Our technology teams provided access to all students. Our food services team worked to make sure every community received food to meet their unique needs. Without you, we could not have met the needs of our communities. Moving forward, I challenge you to use the lessons that you learned to improve and innovate the way we do our work. You have already accomplished so much. Now is the time to transform our support to a new dimension.

Our maintenance and custodial teams have always been at the forefront of getting buildings open and ready for students and educators. Now, we have had to make sure that each classroom and office is sanitized daily. Additionally, our teams have taken other supporting roles to make sure the other operations are prepared to move forward. Again, as we move toward recovery, the procedures that we learned should be continued and enhanced, so we provide the safest and healthiest environment for all of our community.

Starting the new year, we still have uncertainty about so many things. Many of our kids may not return to in-person learning when school resumes. The Delta variant is still not fully understood. Technological concerns that are outside of our control continue to present challenges. Still, we have a great opportunity to capture this moment to transform our work. We are not limited by the paradigm of before.

As Superintendent, I will spend my first 90 days on a listen and learn tour of our district. Perhaps this is when I can introduce myself to you in greater detail and learn more about you and what you do. While I am from the community and am very familiar with it, I should make no assumptions about how everybody is feeling. In this process, I will ask some critical questions of all stakeholders. I will use this information to work with our BPS leadership and the Board of Education to establish a strategic plan for how we transform Bernalillo Public Schools to make our students first.

Finally, as I welcome you back to the new school year, I want to thank Terry Darnell and the BPS leadership team for the focused and deliberate effort they have demonstrated in moving the district forward. I am encouraged by the urgency; inspired by the optimism; grateful for the opportunity; and motivated to serve alongside Terry, the BPS leadership team, and each of you. ***Together, we are committed to high expectations and strong systems that achieve equitable outcomes for OUR students.***

Adelante,



Matt Montañó  
Superintendent  
Bernalillo Public Schools