

Dr. Lisa Herring | Biography

Dr. Lisa Herring brings a servant heart and more than 25 years of experience in education with her to Atlanta Public Schools. A Macon, GA native and graduate of Spelman College and Georgia Southern University, she established her professional career by teaching in both public and private schools in urban and rural settings. These experiences allowed her to impact the lives of students from diverse social, economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Dr. Herring is currently the Superintendent of the Birmingham, AL City Schools (BCS) system. Since joining the system as Superintendent, she led BCS through a significant transformation, stabilizing leadership, improving system performance and increasing student achievement. Under Dr. Herring's leadership, BCS received its first award of full district accreditation after being under state takeover and conditional accreditation for several years. Dr. Herring's focus on instruction significantly reduced the number of failing schools as identified by the Alabama State Department of Education school report card:

- District turnaround moving grade from an underperforming score of F to a passing score of C
- Sixty-seven percent of all schools improved on their individual school state report card
- Elimination of 17 of 22 "F" rated schools over the last three years
- Thirteen schools moved up a letter grade or more

Among other accomplishments for Birmingham City Schools, Dr. Herring, in collaboration with the board, launched the system's strategic plan, Force for Greatness 2018-2023, executed an organizational realignment to drive student achievement, increased organizational effectiveness and established advisory groups to enhance stakeholder communication.

Dr. Herring built strong civic and corporate partnerships to provide innovative and equitable opportunities for all students across the diverse Birmingham community. In collaboration with Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin and United Way of Central Alabama CEO Drew Langloh, she helped develop and launch [The Birmingham Promise](#) to offer new career and college opportunities for any graduate of Birmingham City Schools. In partnership with Apple, Alabama Power, Tech Birmingham and city leadership she collaborated to help design and implement [ED FARM](#), a first of its kind program to build technology skills in students, teachers and community members.

Prior to her tenure in Birmingham, Dr. Herring served as Chief Academic Officer for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, KY, a system with more than 100,000 students where she successfully restructured the academic division and led the district's strategic plan.

Before her tenure in Louisville, Dr. Herring was the Deputy Superintendent of Academics for the Charleston County, SC School District, as well as Chief Academic Officer, Associate Superintendent for Instructional Support and Executive Director of Student Support Services in the district.

Dr. Herring spent several years as a middle school counselor and in that role also served as a reading interventionist to support student progress. She then became the assistant director of student support services in DeKalb County where she led the district's 300 elementary, middle and high school guidance counselors, guidance directors and graduation coaches.

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Dr. Herring then served as the director of student support services in Bibb County where earlier in her career she was an eighth-grade Language Arts teacher. She began her career in education as a creative writing teacher in Pittsburgh and completed her observational field work at Atlanta Public Schools Therrell High School. During her time at Spelman, Herring also volunteered and worked at Warren Memorial Boys and Girls Club of Atlanta.

She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Master and Specialist degrees from the University of South Carolina, Leadership Certification from the University of Georgia and her Doctorate from Georgia Southern University. Dr. Herring completed Harvard University's Public Education and Leadership Program and Georgia's Leadership Institute for School Improvement. She is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Georgia and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Dr. Herring is humbled to have been recognized for her commitment to the children and communities she has served including:

- **Birmingham's Class of Executives of the Decade**, Birmingham Business Journal, 2020
- **Birmingham's Most Influential Executive Award**, Birmingham Business Journal, 2019, 2018
- **"What's Right in Education" Difference Maker Award**, HURON/Studer Education, 2019
- **Exemplary Model Community Service & Leadership Award**, Tri-County (AL) Chapter of the Links 2019
- **Innovation for Equity in Education**, National Charter Member, 2018
- **"Salute to HER" Recipient**, Belhaven University, Atlanta, 2018
- **Education Award**, Birmingham City Council, District Eight, 2017
- **South Carolina Administrator of the Year**, South Carolina School Counseling Association, 2013
- **National ASCA Model Program Coordinator**, Bibb County School District, 2009
- **National ASCA Model Program Coordinator**, DeKalb County School System, 2006

Most important, she is the proud mother of one child, her daughter, Imani, also a graduate of Spelman College.

Dr. Herring embraces a passionate belief that education is the greatest equalizer of mankind. She also believes in the inner strength, power and talent of all children, saying success does not rest solely on where you begin in life, but is achieved by how each of us maximizes our talents and pursues our purpose. She believes this is extremely critical in serving, supporting and educating our children and future leaders.