

Superintendent's Biography

Dr. Jaime Rivera is the superintendent of Riverside Elementary School District No. 2 located in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Rivera began his life as the child of immigrants and developed his love of learning and passion for education in public schools, from kindergarten through his doctoral degree in educational law and administration at Northern Arizona University.

Through Dr. Rivera's passionate leadership and commitment to excellence, the district is continuing to expand and improve its academic programs and opportunities that focus on high-quality teaching and learning, research-based best practices and college and career readiness.

One of his landmark goals is to create more equity and access regarding educational facilities and instructional technology. Dr. Rivera oversees a \$50 million, multi-year capital improvement bond measure as part of the MIT technology integration blueprint for the district. R2 has formed multiple partnerships with multi-billion dollar companies. These partnerships provide our students with a sustainable path into prestigious universities and internships in the U.S. and international corporations.

One of Dr. Rivera's most valued accomplishments has been the recruitment of his administrative team, faculty and support staff. He feels blessed to have had the good fortune to recruit and retain the most intelligent, inspirational and passionate educators in the field of education. He often says that in order to provide students with a high tier education you need to surround yourself with high caliber professionals who are passionate about education and take ownership of student learning.

Dr. Rivera has been an educator for nearly 30 years. He started his career in education as a high school teacher and dean of students. He moved on to elementary, middle school, and junior high school administrative roles. He has also served in Title I and staff development directorships as well as an associate professor for school law and administration at Northern Arizona University his alma mater. His specialized area of expertise is educational law. He has been a trainer, mentor and national lecturer for school principal and superintendent development. His extensive experience in school administration and educational law has allowed him a well-rounded perspective and an in-depth understanding of the K-20 educational system.

Being engaged with the community is important to Dr. Rivera, and he serves on several local and state educational and civic boards to develop and grow community partnerships. He collaborates with other government agencies, area businesses, hospitals and nonprofit organizations to provide the highest quality education and care for his students. Dr. Rivera also is a consulting superintendent for national organizations. His current project is developing hybrid educational systems for gifted and advanced students in the area of STEM² (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine). Dr. Rivera believes that being poor does not mean you are not gifted or advanced. Providing students with a pathway to advanced degrees is his lifelong goal.

In his personal life Dr. Rivera enjoys spending time with his family and good friends. He also enjoys scuba diving, racquetball, and exercising.