

Bio for  
Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum



In the 27 years Dr. Ivory-Tatum has been in education, she has firmly maintained that relationships anchored in trust, mutual respect, and caring foster an unwavering belief that all students not only *can* but *will* improve their educational outcomes. Dr. Ivory-Tatum began her career in education as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Bower Elementary with CUSD 200 (Warrenville, Illinois). She held this position from 1992-1994. Joining Champaign Unit 4 Schools (Champaign, Illinois) in the years 1994-1996, Dr. Ivory-Tatum served as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at Marquette Early Childhood Center. For the school term 1996-1997, she served as a Regular Education Teacher with Canaan Academy (Urbana, Illinois). Returning to Champaign Unit 4 for the 1997-1998 school year, she taught as a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher assigned to Robeson Elementary. From 1997-1998, Dr. Ivory-Tatum served as Facilitator, Consultant, and Teacher at Walt Disney Magnet with Chicago Public Schools. Rejoining Unit 4 Schools, she taught as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher assigned to Robeson Elementary from 2000-2003. Following the school's reconstitution, she accepted the position of Instructional Specialist/Student Services Coordinator at Stratton Elementary. Dr. Ivory-Tatum held this position from 2003-2005. Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, Dr. Ivory-Tatum joined Urbana School District 116 (Urbana, Illinois) as the Principal for M. L. King Jr. Elementary School. During that time, she increased academic achievement for all, particularly for English language learners and African-American, low-income, and special needs students. Through the school's vision and mission that "all children can and will learn at King School," discipline referrals and suspensions decreased significantly. Teacher retention, teacher leadership, and teacher efficacy increased. Families reported high levels of engagement and community partnerships flourished. Dr. Ivory-Tatum oversaw the campus during an eight million-dollar renovation and expansion project. King School was the first elementary school to benefit from the facility sales tax dollars. After serving Urbana as principal for eight school terms, Dr. Ivory-Tatum accepted the position of Deputy Superintendent for Urbana School District 116 beginning in July 2013. Prior to her departure, she successfully led the district through an assessment audit overhaul, spearheaded the 1:1 Chromebook device implementation for grades K-5, and guided middle school and high school teams in the development and implementation of a new Restorative Practices model for grades 6-12. She supervised, evaluated, and mentored EC-12 Directors, Principals, and Assistant Principals to improve the educational outcomes for all students in order to create positive learning environments. She also worked with these teams to create and implement USD116's plan for Senate Bill 100, which ultimately reduced the number of suspensions and

expulsions district-wide. Dr. Ivory-Tatum left Urbana 116 to join Champaign Unit 4 Schools as Assistant Superintendent of Achievement & Student Learning beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Since joining Unit 4, at the elementary level she has created voice and choice opportunities for professional development, strengthened the implementation of core instruction in literacy, ensured all students had access to literacy instruction at or above their grade level, increased data-informed and data-driven assessment practices, while creating several equity initiatives to increase access and opportunity for Unit 4's most marginalized elementary student groups.

Dr. Ivory-Tatum holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education (1991) and a Master of Arts degree in Special Education (1992), both from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She holds a Doctorate of Education degree in Education and Organizational Leadership (2001), also from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Quote: "Due to my extensive years working in progressive districts, I believe I am well-qualified to be the next Superintendent of Urbana School District 116. I have amassed a wealth of knowledge, experience, and have built positive relationships with students, staff, families, administration, and the community at large. I understand what is necessary and essential to the growth and development of District 116 in order to take it to the next level and will continue to be an advocate for the students, staff, and stakeholders involved. I look forward to bridging gaps, setting new goals for an innovative future, and moving the district towards a path of healing and harmonious outcomes."