

Jeremiah Holiday, Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer
Milwaukee Public Schools

Dr. Jeremiah Holiday is a veteran educator, committed leader, and dedicated public servant who believes that all children can learn and achieve if given the right tools to succeed. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Mississippi Valley State University, a master's in special education with an emphasis on visual disabilities from Middle Tennessee State University, a master's in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Dr. Holiday has served at all levels of the education system and across both private and public sectors in rural, mid-sized, and urban settings.

Dr. Holiday began his career in education as an elementary school teacher at a small private school in Mississippi. He later became a regular education teacher and special education teacher in the Memphis City Schools.

For several years, Dr. Holiday served as the statewide consultant for vision programs at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and as the state's consultant for disproportionality in special education. In these roles, he initiated and led statewide initiatives, policies, and programs to ensure that students with visual impairments and disabilities received equitable services from Wisconsin's public-school districts. Dr. Holiday also worked closely with school districts across the state that were identified by the federal government as disproportionately identifying certain groups of students for special education.

Dr. Holiday served as the principal of a private K–12 school in Milwaukee where he was instrumental in assisting the school with obtaining accreditation. He also served as principal of an elementary school in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. In 2014, Dr. Holiday accepted a position with the Milwaukee Public Schools as principal of Lowell Elementary. There he successfully led Lowell and its staff through the final phase of obtaining official status as an International Baccalaureate elementary school.

In 2016, Dr. Holiday was hired to be the director of school support for the Northwest Region of Milwaukee Public Schools. In this role, he worked closely with the regional superintendent and other district staff to supervise principals and provide administrative support to approximately 20 schools on Milwaukee's northwest side. Dr. Holiday transitioned to the role of instructional leadership director at Milwaukee Public Schools where he continued to work closely with principals and instructional staff at 16 of the district's lowest-performing schools. As instructional leadership director, he spearheaded the development of the "State of the School" address, which empowered school leaders and staff to critically examine and analyze school data in an effort to improve data-driven decision making.

Dr. Holiday's leadership ability was recognized by MPS, and after briefly serving as regional superintendent for the Central Region of the district, it was recognized that his talents would be better utilized in academics as he soon transitioned to the role of instructional superintendent to lead the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. While serving as the instructional superintendent, Dr. Holiday led with a keen focus on results, accountability, identification of best practices, and improvement. In October 2018, Dr. Holiday was appointed by Dr. Keith Posley, superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools, to serve as the interim chief academic officer of the district. In this role, Dr.

Holiday serves as a member of Dr. Posley's senior administrative team and cabinet where he leads the district's work in academics and carries out the vision of the superintendent.

As chief academic officer for Milwaukee Public Schools, Dr. Holiday continues to operate with the same focus and belief he had as an elementary school teacher in Lexington, Mississippi—all children can learn and can reach their greatest potential if given the right tools to succeed. Dr. Holiday sincerely believes the toolkit for success includes many things but must undoubtedly include dedicated educators who are prepared and willing to do whatever it takes to help students succeed.