

# Joel C. Pedersen

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## EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

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Drake University	2004-2006	Ed.S.	Educational Leadership	<i>Des Moines, Iowa</i>
Drake University	2002-2004	M.S.E.	Education Administration	<i>Des Moines, Iowa</i>
Buena Vista University	1996-1999	B.A.	Elementary Education	<i>Storm Lake, Iowa</i>

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## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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### Chief Administrator

Central Rivers Area Education Agency, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 2023-Present

Executive leader for a service agency with 53 school districts, 64,000 students, and 550 staff members.

### Superintendent

Cardinal Community School District, Eldon, Iowa, 2010-2023

Executive leader for a district with 1000 students, 200 staff members

### Accomplishments

- Awarded 2020 Iowa Superintendent of the Year, School Administrators of Iowa
- Awarded Top 150 Workplaces in Iowa, Des Moines Register 5 years in a row (2019-2023)
- Awarded high-performing status despite challenging student demographics, Iowa School Report Card, Cardinal Elementary (2020)
- Celebrated high graduation rate, 96.2% graduation rate (2019)
- Finalist, 2019 Iowa Superintendent of the Year, School Administrators of Iowa
- Awarded commendable status despite challenging student demographics, Iowa School Report Card, Cardinal Elementary (2017, 2019)
- Increased overall enrollment by 55% in 10 years (2010-20)
  - Welcomed 428 open-enrolled students during the 22-23 school year.
  - Hired 35 new teaching positions and 100 support staff employees over the past seven years due to enrollment growth
- Met all goals for Cardinal CSD with the 2020 Every Student Succeeds Act School Profile (2019-23)
- Advocated for high school students to earn college credits
  - 1,502 college credits earned, 285,000 dollars saved by students and families through dual credit with Indian Hills Community College (2021-22)
- Improved elementary literacy scores: Cardinal Elementary ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 400+ elementary buildings in the state with growth on F.A.S.T reading (2018)
- Led initiative in collaboration with ISEA to create cohort model for National Board Certification; currently, five teachers are becoming certified (first in the state, 2018)
- Awarded U.S. News and World Report, Best High Schools in America, Cardinal High School (2017, 2018)
- Awarded 2015 District of Character, Iowa Character Counts
- Advocated successfully with colleagues across the state to extend operational sharing for five additional years (2014)
- Led initiative to create the Cardinal Area Welding Academy in collaboration with IHCC (2016)
  - Five students have earned apprenticeship status with Local 33 Union (2019)
- Led a \$5.3 million referendum ballot initiative that passed with over 66% community support on the first vote (2015)
- Managed 18 million dollars towards facility infrastructure improvements since 2011
- Awarded 2015 Iowa Fine Arts Administrator of the Year, School Administrators of Iowa
- Awarded a \$240,000 grant from Ottumwa Legacy Foundation to increase college and career readiness (2016)
- Finalist, 2014 John Maxwell Inaugural Leadership Award
- Awarded 2014 Superintendent of the Year, Iowa Bandmaster Association
- Awarded a \$475,000 grant from Ottumwa Legacy Foundation to build 21st-century learning spaces (2015)
- Awarded a \$550,000 grant for a FEMA severe weather safe room at elementary school (2011)
- Awarded inaugural Dr. Jim Lindenmayer Leadership Award for Exceptional Leadership, IHCC (2014)
- Awarded 2011 School Boards Making a Difference Award, Iowa Association of School Boards
- Led blended preschool program with community partnerships and grew enrollment from 36 to 140 students (2010-Present)

### Middle School Principal/District Director of Special Education

Davis County Community School District, Bloomfield, Iowa, 2006-2010

School leader for middle school with 430 students, 50 staff members

**Accomplishments**

- Awarded Middle School Principal of the Year, School Administrators of Iowa (2010)
- Finalist, Middle School Principal of the Year, School Administrators of Iowa (2009)
- Successfully met Annual Yearly Progress from 2006 to 2010
- Implemented Olweus Prevention program to reduce bullying
- Implemented Second Chance reading program to improve reading achievement scores

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**Presenter**

- Iowa Association of School Boards Conference: Culture is Contagious (November 2017)
- Albia Chamber Lunch and Learn: Culture is Contagious (November 2016)
- Ottumwa Regional Health Center, Orange Frog Training/Happiness Advantage (September 2016)
- School Administrators of Iowa Annual Conference, Culture is Contagious (August 2016)
- School Nutrition Association National Conference, Emotional Intelligence, (July 2016)
- Indian Hills Community College Executive Leadership Series: Culture is Contagious (June 2016)
- Keota School District Citizen's Group, Hope for the Future (March 2016)
- School Administrators of Iowa, Emotional Intelligence Workshop (February 2015)
- Wayne Community School District, School Improvement Starts with Culture (January 2015)
- Iowa Association of School Boards Conference: How to Be Successful in Passing a Bond Referendum (November 2015)
- GPAEA Superintendent's Advisory, Emotional Intelligence Is the Other Kind of Smart (September 2015)
- National Rural Education Convention: School Improvement Starts with Culture (October 2014)
- Leadership Now: Emotional Intelligence Is the Other Kind of Smart (November 2014)
- IHCC Razor's Edge: Emotional Intelligence Is the Other Kind of Smart (November 2014)
- Iowa School Board Annual Convention: School Improvement Starts with School Culture (November 2014)
- School Administrators of Iowa Annual Conference, School Improvement Starts with School Culture (August 2014)
- Ottumwa Leadership Now Conference (November 2013, 2014, 2017)

**Keynote Speaker**

- Indian Hills Community College Commencement Address (May 2019)
- Iowa School Finance Consortium, (November 2019)
- Southwestern Community College, Emotional Intelligence (January 2015)
- Ottumwa Job Corps Commencement Address (August 2014)
- Meskwaki Settlement School District, School Improvement Starts with School Culture (August 2014)

**Panelist**

- IASB Fiscal Management Conference, Dropout Prevention: How to Prioritize Equity in Your District (July 2021)
- Governor's Chronic Absenteeism meeting (September 2016)
- Governor's Anti-Bullying Conference (November 2014)

**Memberships and Organizations**

- GPAEA Superintendents' Advisory Legislative Co-chair (2018-2023)
- Rural School Advocates of Iowa Legislative Committee (2018-2023)
- Ottumwa Regional Health Center Executive Board Member (2018-2023)
- School Administrators of Iowa Executive Committee Member (2014-2016)
- Executive Board Member, Iowa High School Music Association (2015-2023)
- GPAEA Superintendents' Advisory Meeting Chair (2013)
- GPAEA Superintendents' Advisory Negotiation Chair (2011-2023)
- School Administrators of Iowa Representative Council Member (2012-2014)
- Board Member, Ottumwa Legacy Foundation Bright Ideas Grant Committee (2013-2018)

**Contributor**

- Dean, Ottumwa Leadership Academy (2021)
- *School Administrator Magazine*: How Happiness Saved Our District (September 2016)

**Lobbying**

- Iowa Legislative Session (2010-Present)
- AESA Federal Advocacy Conference, Washington D.C. (September 2015, 2013)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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- Orange Frog Training/Happiness Advantage Certified Trainer (2015)
- Crisis Prevention Intervention Certification (2015)

- Iowa Executive Leaders Superintendent Network (2015-Present)
- AASA National Convention (2015-Present)
- Emotional Intelligence Certified Trainer (2013)
- Simplifying Response to Intervention (2013)
- Crucial Conversations Training (2011)
- Fierce Conversations Training (2011, 2014)
- Iowa Association of School Boards Annual Convention (2010-Present)
- Iowa Superintendent Financial Leadership Consortium (2009-Present)
- School Administrators of Iowa Annual Convention (2003-Present)