



Dr. Mary Esselman - Executive Director/Assessment

Mary E. Esselman, Ed.D., joined the Kansas City Missouri School District (KCMSD) as its **Executive Director of Assessment and Professional Development** in October 2009.

Throughout her career in education, Esselman has held a variety of teaching and administrative positions.

Esselman began her career in education as a teacher at the **Lorton Maximum Security Prison in Virginia**. There she worked to develop a model education program in reading.

From that point she spent several years coordinating an alternative education program in the **Cabrini Green Housing Project** in Chicago, where she worked closely with more than 500 at-risk elementary and high school students. Later she made her first stop in the Greater Kansas City area, where **she served as a high school math teacher in Kansas City, Kan.**

Esselman's relationship with the Kansas City, Missouri School District began during the implementation of the District's Desegregation Plan in the early 1990s. She served as both the **Coordinator of Research and the Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment**. After leaving the District in 1996, she continued to serve its patrons as a consultant to the **Desegregation Monitoring Committee**.

Prior to her current appointment, Esselman contributed to the District during the initial stages of its implementation and evaluation of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) Accountability Turnaround Plan.

Esselman earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Georgetown University in 1984; during her undergraduate tenure she was awarded the **William H. Coakley Medal for Leadership and Achievement**.

Later, in 1991, she earned a doctorate in education from the University of Louisville, graduating with honors and a Dean's Citation. While at Louisville, Esselman conducted research in the areas of at-risk youth, dropouts, and teacher efficacy. She interned under a nationally-renowned professor, Dr. Phil Schlechty, at the Center for Leadership in School Reform, where she developed and piloted an advocacy-based assessment system for use by schools undergoing restructuring.

Esselman is currently completing a master's degree in Urban Education from the University of Kansas.