

Steven Harris, J.D. – Asst. Supt./Human Resources

Steven Harris, J.D., joined the Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) as **Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources** in August 2009.

The third son of a career Air Force airman, Harris obtained a unique vision of the world, most notably during three years living in Japan. His roots in Missouri were first extended when his family moved to Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo. There Harris attended high school, where he was a good student. However, during his youth he never defined what he wanted to do when he grew up, and found no one at school ever helped him answer that question.

Harris continued his education in Missouri, attending William Jewell College after high school and earned a bachelor's degrees in mathematics and computer science in 1987. He became a systems analyst at Hallmark Cards, but did not find the work fulfilling. He wanted to help people. As a result, Harris matriculated to law school.

Harris graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley in May 1992. He then returned to Kansas City, where he was hired by Shook Hardy and Bacon law firm.

After departing the law firm, Harris began work as assistant general counsel for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), where he represented the state during the Kansas City desegregation case. Harris realized he wanted to play a more active role in education. He took a sabbatical from practicing law and went back to college at New York University, where he earned a master's degree in mathematics education in 1999 and became a high school math teacher in New York City.

Harris returned to Missouri and taught high school math in the Springfield School District. From there he moved to his alma mater, William Jewell College, where he was a professor in the Education Department. Harris taught math methods, secondary methods and technology in the classroom.

Harris enjoyed the work at William Jewell, but his passion was for urban schools, so he went back to school to earn a doctorate in the Urban Superintendents Program at Harvard University. He finished his coursework in June 2008, earning a master's degree in Education Policy and Leadership, and is working to complete his dissertation for his doctorate.

During the 2008-2009 school year, Harris served as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent in the **Prince George's County (Md.) School District**. His work placed great emphasis on evaluating the parent liaison program, leading a task force to create the district's per pupil funding formula, and advising the superintendent on school law issues.