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## **District 214 Superintendent Elected to Lead** **National Group of School Administrators** *Will work to champion public education, innovation*

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL – High School District 214 Superintendent Dr. David Schuler has been elected president-elect of the AASA: The School Superintendents Association, a national professional organization advocating for high-quality public education for all students and serving more than 13,000 educational leaders worldwide.

Schuler, who is in his ninth year leading District 214 – the second-largest high school system in Illinois – has served on AASA’s executive committee since 2011, and formerly held a four-year seat on the organization’s governing board. He also is president of the Suburban School Superintendents Association, working to solidify relationships between top educators nationwide in an effort to raise expectations as innovators and visionaries.

“We have a moral obligation to stand up and champion public education in this country,” Schuler said. “AASA, its individual members and public schools across the country are doing incredible work that is inspiring students to reach their full potential, breaking the cycle of poverty and positioning students for success beyond high school, in futures we can’t imagine. I’m so excited to champion this effort to enhance the trajectory of lives.”

His presidency was determined by superintendents nationwide. It takes effect in 2015.

One of Schuler’s key initiatives will be to encourage collaborative innovation. He suggests school- or system-level innovation committees that anticipate what education will look like in the future and develop plans to transform teaching and learning accordingly, empowering teachers to try new ideas that effectively prepare students.

“David is an outstanding leader with a steadfast commitment to excellence in public education,” said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. “As we continue to reshape America’s education agenda, I am pleased to welcome David as our president-elect. He will serve as a champion for public education for our nation and most of all, for our nation’s students.”

Under Schuler’s leadership, District 214 student achievement levels have soared even amid notably changing demographics: the Class of 2013 ACT composite score reached a record high of 23.5 (higher than state and national averages), and the number of students taking Advanced

Placement tests has more than doubled. His work forging community partnerships and the innovative pursuit of grant funding has led to more career pathways and dual-credit opportunities, allowing District 214 students to earn more than 600 career certifications since 2008 in areas including computer programming, manufacturing and healthcare while in high school.

Before coming to District 214, Schuler was superintendent of Stevens Point Area Public Schools in Wisconsin. He began his career as a social studies teacher, coach, activity adviser and director of athletics and activities before becoming a high school principal and then, in 2000, a superintendent. He regularly draws on that mix of professional experiences in both large and small suburban and rural districts.

“I recognize that what works in some communities might not work the same way in other school systems, and that’s OK,” Schuler said. “It’s good that there’s not a one-size-fits-all answer to education, because that approach doesn’t encourage innovation, and it doesn’t recognize the diversity of our students or their vast opportunities for success.”

Schuler has been an adjunct associate professor at the College of Education and Policy Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is vice president of the board of directors for the Wisconsin American Legion Badger Boys State program, and serves on the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago Educational Panel. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his research focused on leadership theory and the building of relationships between superintendents and their administrative teams. His master’s degree is also from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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### **About High School District 214:**

High School District 214 is the second-largest high school district in Illinois, delivering relevant, innovative education to more than 12,000 students from eight communities. The nationally recognized district includes six comprehensive high schools and four alternative programs, offering more than 600 academic courses and 140 co-curricular opportunities for students. The District’s community education program is one of the nation’s largest, serving more than 50,000 lifelong learners every year.