



Gail D. Ward

Gail D. Ward served as a Teacher and Principal at the elementary and high school levels in a distinguished 30-year career at Chicago Public Schools, winning the Outstanding Principal School Leadership Award in 1999. In November, 2006, Ms. Ward was named Chief Officer of the CPS Office of Principal Preparation and Development. While at OPPD, Ms. Ward helped the department expand its partnerships with universities and foundations, streamlined the eligibility process for new hires, and piloted a coaching program for new principals to ensure that CPS principals had the appropriate preparation and support to become effective school leaders. Ms. Ward was the founding principal at Walter Payton College Prep, one of the city's most accomplished selective enrollment high schools. She served in that role for seven years, a period when Payton ranked first in the state in mathematics three consecutive years and placed second in Illinois in overall student performance. Ms. Ward served as a Director on The Board of Education of The City of Chicago from June 2015 to May 2019 and a Trustee on the board of the Chicago History Museum since 2008. Ms. Ward has worked extensively with cultural institutions and universities to create projects that are national and international in scope. Ms. Ward is a frequent traveler and has visited schools in Africa, China, Europe, India and the Middle East.

