

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) Director, Maryland State Department of Education, Assistant State Superintendent for Rehabilitation Services, Dr. Erik D. Bonner, joined DORS in October of 2024, having nearly two decades of experience working with people with disabilities and youth.

Dr. Bonner has extensive experience in Education, Special Education, Administration, Operations, and Leadership. He began his career as a teacher, special educator, and school administrator, then moved into director roles in Boston, Chicago, and Houston, where he focused on advancing equity and achievement for all stakeholders.

Dr. Bonner holds a Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees, and a Doctorate from the University of North Texas, and a Master's in Management Studies from the Yale School of Management at Yale University.

During his time at Boston Public Schools, Dr. Bonner spearheaded initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for students with diverse learning needs, particularly those in special education programs. He was instrumental in designing and implementing transition programs to ensure students successfully moved from school into post-secondary opportunities, whether in higher education, vocational training, or the workforce. His leadership in these areas significantly contributed to better preparedness and long-term success for students with disabilities.

His work in Chicago, serving as Executive Director for the Office for Students with Disabilities at Chicago Public Schools further reflects his deep commitment to fostering inclusive environments. During his time in the Houston Independent School District, he focused on improving effectiveness by building capacity and leadership.

Dr. Bonner has a passion for public education and for vocational rehabilitation employment services for students and adults with disabilities. This, along with his strategic vision, collaborative approach, and focus on data-driven outcomes, position him as a fitting leader for the Division of Rehabilitation Services. He brings his expertise to his role as DORS' Director, where he continues to champion equity, innovation, and excellence.