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## **What to Look for in Next Schools Superintendent: Public Invited to Take Survey, Attend October Meetings**

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**Date :** September 26, 2018

In looking for Darien's next superintendent of schools, the Board of Education says it wants to hear from Darien residents, so the board announced an online survey available for anyone to fill out by Oct. 26 and "focus groups" (meetings) available to town residents on two dates in October.

*Here's the board's announcement, followed by the full text of [the survey](#):*

The Darien Board of Education has hired School Leadership, LLC to assist it in the search process for a new superintendent of schools.



It is the intention of the Board of Education to have this process completed so that a permanent superintendent is in place for the start of the new school year on July 1, 2019. Dr. Elliott Landon currently serves as interim superintendent of schools.

The Board of Education values input from the community and has directed School Leadership to conduct focus groups to obtain participant input regarding the attributes, experience and knowledge that a new superintendent should possess.

- Focus groups are scheduled for Oct. 10 and 11 in the Darien Board of Education Meeting Room at 35 Leroy Ave.
- Parents of students enrolled in the district are invited to join on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Members of the Darien community at large who are interested in sharing their thoughts on the next superintendent of schools are invited to attend the focus groups on Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and again on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- No RSVP is necessary.

[An on-line survey](#) available to all Darien residents and stakeholders has also been created to ensure that all members of the community have the chance to provide their thoughts. The survey will be available until Oct. 26.

Paper copies of this survey are also available at the Darien Library and at the Board of Education Central Office at 35 Leroy Ave., and can be completed and submitted at those locations.

School leadership is scheduled to also meet with other stakeholder groups, including students, staff, and

faculty to ensure that all perspectives are heard.

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**Here's What The Survey Asks**

*Here's the full text of the survey. You can fill it out to submit your views [online, at this Web page](#) (you can't fill it out here—don't even try):*

1. In the following list of 16 important experiences and skills for a Superintendent, please click the boxes beside the FIVE that you feel are MOST CRITICAL (realizing ALL are important) for an individual to be successful as the Darien Superintendent beginning next year:

Experienced as a superintendent of schools

Experienced as a central office administrator

Experienced as a school principal

Experienced as a classroom teacher

Experienced in providing leadership in improving an already high-achieving school district

Holder of an earned doctorate

Skilled in public relations

Skilled in labor relations including employee contract negotiations

Skilled in providing instructional and curriculum leadership

Skilled in the area of human resources (e.g. selection and support of personnel)

Skilled in providing special education leadership

Skilled in budgeting, finance and facility planning

Skilled in short and long-range planning

Skilled in public speaking and in written communication

Skilled in working effectively with an elected board of education

Skilled in the political process (e.g. working with Town and other elected officials)

2. What do you see as the single, most important quality that the next Superintendent of the Darien Public Schools should possess? Why??

3. Other comments for or recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent Search:

4. Tell us about yourself. Please check ALL of the following that apply to you:

A resident of Darien WITHOUT children currently in school	YES	A resident of Darien WITHOUT children currently in school YES
A resident of Darien WITH children currently in a parochial or independent school		A resident of Darien WITH children currently in a parochial or independent school YES

A resident of Darien WITH children currently in the public schools	YES A resident of Darien WITH children currently in the public schools YES
A member of the Darien teaching staff	A member of the Darien teaching staff YES
A member of the Darien support staff	A member of the Darien support staff YES
A member of the Darien administrative staff	A member of the Darien administrative staff YES
An officer of a Darien parent organization	An officer of a Darien parent organization YES
A student attending the Darien Public Schools	A student attending the Darien Public Schools YES
An elected member of the Town government	An elected member of the Town government YES
A current or former member of the Darien Board of Education	A current or former member of the Darien Board of Education YES