



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release  
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## **DISTRICT 39 SUPERINTENDENT TO RETIRE NEXT YEAR**

*(Wilmette, Ill.)* At the regular February District 39 Board of Education meeting, Dr. Ray Lechner, District 39 Superintendent, announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Commenting on his upcoming departure, Dr. Lechner said, "This was not an easy decision for me. After 20 years in District 39, it will be hard to leave. The most rewarding part of my 33-year career will be the last 12 years as superintendent. I've had the pleasure to work in a community steadfastly focused on the betterment of our students with dedicated Boards of Education, committed staff, top-notch administrators, and exceptional parents. Collectively, we drive our schools to excellence. I look forward to working with the next D39 leader to ensure a smooth transition."

Dr. Lechner first came to District 39 in 1999 as administrator for student services. He was named superintendent in 2007.

Board President Mark Steen noted, "District 39 and our entire community has been very fortunate to have Ray leading the school system since 2007. The initiatives and improvements he has spearheaded will continue to benefit the staff and children of D39 long after his departure. He leaves a strong foundation for his successor. The Board is committed to a thorough, broad, and inclusive search process and to involving the District's many stakeholders in our selection of the next superintendent."

The Board will conduct a nationwide search for the District's next superintendent. In the coming weeks the Board will begin interviewing firms to assist the District with this important process.

District 39 is an elementary school district that serves pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students in Wilmette and in parts of Glenview and Winnetka.

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