

## Introducing, Dr. Erik Bonner

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is pleased to introduce our new Director, Maryland State Department of Education, Assistant State Superintendent for Rehabilitation Services, Dr. Erik D. Bonner, who joined us on October 16th.

Dr. Bonner has extensive experience in Education, Special Education, Administration, Operations, and Leadership. He began his career as a teacher, special educator, school administrator, then progressed to director positions 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, a Doctorate from the University of North Texas, and a Master's in Management Studies from the Yale University School of Management.

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. Most recently, 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 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 new leader for the Division of Rehabilitation Services. He is excited to bring his expertise to his new role, where he will continue to champion equity, innovation, and excellence.