

David E. Simmons, Ph.D.

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Professional Biography

Dr. David E. Simmons is a seasoned educational leader with decades of experience in public school administration, organizational leadership, and school improvement. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated expertise in managing district operations, improving student outcomes, and securing significant grant funding to support educational initiatives. As a Superintendent, he has overseen transformative projects, including technology integration, financial stabilization, and district-wide improvements. His experience also includes serving as a TEA Professional Service Provider, Monitor, and Conservator, where he conducted extensive research and evaluation projects. With a strong foundation in applied research and a commitment to advancing educational practices, Dr. Simmons now aims to contribute to research publication and external funding opportunities.

Education

- **Doctor of Philosophy** in Educational Administration | *Texas A&M University* | August 2001
 - Dissertation: *The Effectiveness of Wealth Recapture Legislation on Achieving Financial Equity Among the Public School Districts in Texas*
- **Master of Education** in Educational Administration | *Stephen F. Austin State University* | May 1987
 - Certifications: Mid-Management, Superintendent
- **Bachelor of Science** | *Stephen F. Austin State University* | May 1982

Trainings & Certifications

Texas Professional Certifications

Description	Effective Date	Expiration Date
Mid-Management Administrator	01/23/1990	Life
Grades (PK-12)		
Superintendent	08/15/1992	Life
Grades (PK-12)		

Provisional Certifications

Description	Effective Date	Expiration Date
Secondary History	05/15/1982	Life

Grades (6-12)

Secondary Physical Education 05/15/1982 Life

Grades (6-12)

Other Certifications

- Teacher Evaluation Support System (T-TESS)
- Annual Board Governance Training

Professional Experience

Superintendent

Martinsville I.S.D. | Martinsville, Texas

August 2016 – 2024

- Managed district finances, increasing fund balance from \$50,000 to \$4.8 million.
- Oversaw 1:1 student-to-device technology implementation.
- Conducted board meetings and supported campus administrators.
- Served as the district athletic director.

School Turnaround Coordinator

Multiple Non-Profits | Texas

May 2018 – 2021

- Lead school improvement efforts defined by SB 1882 legislation.
- Oversee governmental compliance operations and budgeting.
- Provide leadership support for in-district charter schools under 1882 funding.
- Serve as the final decision authority for personnel.

Monitor/Conservator

Texas Education Agency (TEA) | Texas

August 2015 – Present

- Developed and monitored district improvement plans.
- Provided recommendations to the Commissioner for sanctions and actions.

Professional Service Provider (PSP)

August 2015 – 2018

- Assisted district leaders in implementing the Texas Accountability Intervention System (TAIS).
- Supported continuous improvement processes using research-based practices.

Deputy Network Leader

Louisiana Department of Education | Baton Rouge, LA

March 2011 – May 2015

- Supported 13 school districts in NW Louisiana to improve student achievement.
- Implemented educational reforms, including performance-based evaluations.

Adjunct Professor

Texas A&M - Texarkana | Texarkana, Texas

May 2011 – August 2013

- Taught educational leadership courses.

Chief School Officer of High Schools

Houston I.S.D. | Houston, Texas

February 2010 – October 2010

- Led and supported 46 high schools with 75,000 students.

Additional Superintendent Roles

- *Richardson I.S.D.* (2007–2009)
 - Elevated campuses to recognized/exemplary status.
 - District named Outstanding School District by HEB in 2008.
- *Tyler I.S.D.* (2002–2007)
 - Passed \$96 million bond campaign.
 - Named TASB School Board of the Year (2006).
- *Texas City I.S.D.* (1999–2002)
 - Negotiated Chapter 41 agreements for equitable funding.
- *Wimberley I.S.D.* (1996–1999)
 - Elevated district to Exemplary status.
- *Presidio I.S.D.* (1995–1996)
 - Pioneered distance learning with Sul Ross State University.

Earlier Roles

- K-12 Principal (Martinsville I.S.D.)
- High School Principal (Jacksonville High School)
- Field Service Agent (Region 7 ESC)
- Teacher/Coach (Various Texas Schools)

Scholarship

In his roles as an administrator and as a TEA Professional Service Provider (PSP), Monitor, and Conservator, Dr. Simmons conducted numerous research and evaluation projects. While these projects resulted in unpublished technical reports due to their nature, they demonstrate his skills in conducting mixed methods research on school improvement. Dr. Simmons now seeks to leverage his applied research experience to engage in deeper research endeavors for publication and external funding.

Published 2026

Book

Odell, M. R. L., & Simmons, D. E. (2026). *Learning to see school systems: Power, practice, and improvement in public education*. Myers Education Press.

Book Chapter

Simmons, D. E., Dennis, A., Pedersen, J., & Odell, M. R. L. (2026). Building school culture and climate: Lessons from university-affiliated and traditional district leadership. In J. A. Vornberg, N. R. Templeton, & G. J. Miller (Eds.), *Texas public school organization and administration* (20th ed.). Kendall Hunt.

Grants

In his role as Superintendent, Dr. Simmons oversaw all federal and state grant activities in the districts he served. He has extensive experience securing grants as an organizational leader. Under his leadership, his districts received millions in grant funding from the Texas Education Agency, the federal government, and private sources.

Recent Grants:

- **Electric School Bus Grant** | Martinsville I.S.D. | 2023
Obtained grant funding to implement the first district-wide electric school bus program in Texas.
- **Teacher Incentive Allotment Grant** | Martinsville I.S.D. | 2022
Secured funding to support teacher incentives and enhance district performance.
- **SB 1882 Partnership Grants** | Multiple Districts | 2018–2021
Coordinated and secured funding under SB 1882 legislation to support in-district charter schools and improvement initiatives.

Conferences, Commissions, and Advisory Boards

Over his career, Dr. Simmons has participated in hundreds of conferences, presented at numerous events, served as a panelist, and contributed in advisory roles to many Education Service Center (ESC) regions, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and local organizations. He attended the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), and Regional ESC sponsored events annually.

Advisory Boards

Dr. Simmons has served on various advisory boards, contributing his expertise to improve education practices and policies across regions and organizations. His advisory roles include:

- Region 7 ESC Superintendent Advisory Council (2016–2024)

- Region 10 ESC Superintendent Advisory Council (2007–2009)
- Texas School Coalition Board of Directors (2002–2007, 2007–2009)
- Region 4 ESC Superintendent Advisory Council (1999–2002)
- Region 13 ESC Superintendent Advisory Council (1996–1999)
- Equity Center Board of Directors (1994–1995, 1996–1999)
- Region 18 ESC Superintendent Advisory Council (1994–1995)

TEA School Improvement Roles

Dr. Simmons has served in key roles supporting TEA’s school turnaround efforts. As a Conservator, he was responsible for ensuring compliance with state requirements and guiding districts in meeting performance goals. As a PSP, he worked to build leadership capacity and implement targeted improvement strategies. In the role of Monitor, he provided oversight and reported directly to the Commissioner on district progress. Additionally, as an SB 1882 Charter Leader, he collaborated with districts to establish innovative in-district charter schools, fostering sustainable improvement through tailored governance and instructional models.

- **2018:** Assigned District Conservator for Winfield ISD by Commissioner of Education
- Assigned as PSP for the following districts:
 - Laneville ISD (Region 7)
 - Etoile ISD (Region 7)
 - Nacogdoches ISD (Region 7)
 - Pineywoods Charter School Academy (Region 7)
 - Monitor assigned by Commissioner to Cumberland Academy for attendance auditing (Region 7)
 - PSP for Union Grove ISD (Region 7)

Professional Affiliations

- Texas Association of School Administrators
- American Association of School Administrators
- Board of Directors, Equity Center
- Texas School Alliance

References

Dr. Marty Crawford

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Dr. Mike Moses

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Mr. Andy Bergfeld

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Dr. Paul Cruz

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