



Dr. Brenda Cassellius has been an educator for more than 23 years, working as a paraprofessional, classroom teacher, administrator, and school superintendent in K–12 systems in Minnesota and Tennessee. She has successfully led redesign and change efforts that put students first, focused on achievement, and resulted in better student outcomes, and since being appointed as commissioner of Education in 2010, she has led comprehensive education reforms that benefit every child in Minnesota.

During the past three years, Dr. Cassellius has delivered on Governor Dayton's 7-Point Plan: Better Schools for a Better Minnesota, which puts a sharp focus on early learning, third-grade reading, high school graduation, and the elimination of achievement gaps. She has played a key role in providing better funding for our schools, working with the governor and the legislature to enact historic investments for all-day kindergarten, early childhood education, third-grade literacy, and special education funding reform. Dr. Cassellius has been instrumental in the national attention Minnesota has received for its education reform efforts as one of the first states to secure an Elementary and Secondary Education Act flexibility waiver and for successfully securing key funding from the U.S. Department of Education, including the Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge Grant, Charter School Replication Grant, and many additional partnership grants.