

## EDUCATION & RESEARCH

# Doris Voitier

## Superintendent

### St. Bernard Parish Schools

Chalmette, Louisiana



**D**oris Voitier was appointed Superintendent of the St. Bernard Parish Public Schools on August 10, 2004. She became Superintendent after a 33-year career in the St. Bernard school system, following experiences as a high school mathematics teacher, Coordinator of Accounting, Supervisor of Accounting and Instruction, Associate Superintendent for Finance and Support Services, and Assistant Superintendent.

A graduate of Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, Ms. Voitier attended the University of Dallas from 1967-1969 and graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics education in 1971. Ms. Voitier earned a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UNO in 1975, and she completed 30 graduate hours beyond her Master's Degree in 1983.

During her tenure in the classroom, Ms. Voitier eventually rose to the ranks of Mathematics Department Chair. She was encouraged to leave her teaching position in order to serve in the capacity of school district accountant and financial manager. In her position as Coordinator, Supervisor, and Associate Superintendent for Finance, she led her department to operational excellence, securing for the St. Bernard Parish School Board numerous awards for exemplary financial accountability from the Governmental Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officers. Also, since securing her earliest position as finance officer, the district has been without audit exception during its annual audits.

After being named Assistant Superintendent in 1999, Ms. Voitier assumed responsibilities that included oversight of the district's instructional program as well as its finances. While serving in that capacity, she led efforts to restructure curriculum at all levels, resulting in improved student test scores, and she initiated an internal system of school accountability that addresses the monthly monitoring of teacher and student performance.

Currently, she is spearheading efforts to rebuild the school district in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which destroyed each of the system's 20 buildings and school sites. Despite the district suffering complete and total devastation, she led the drive to reopen schools in St. Bernard Parish against all odds. Those efforts have been profiled within numerous television and newspaper stories, with each agreeing that her leadership and determination in returning schools to the parish will be a cornerstone in rebuilding the entire community. Most recently, she was awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her courageous leadership in difficult times. She is the first person from Louisiana and the first K-12 educator to receive that award. She was also recently named the Louisiana School Superintendent of the Year.