



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

HAND DELIVERED

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
2019 JUL 17 PM 1:56  
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

July 17, 2019

Secretary Laurel M. Lee  
Department of State  
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Lee:

Enclosed is the resignation of Mary Beth Jackson as Okaloosa County School Superintendent, which I have accepted effective July 17, 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

RD/mm

Enclosure

HAND DELIVERED

MARY BETH JACKSON  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OKALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 17, 2019

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2019 JUL 17 PM 1:57

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
THE CAPITOL  
400 S. MONROE STREET  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0001

Governor DeSantis,

Following my reinstatement and with gratitude to the students and citizens of Okaloosa County, I hereby resign from my position as Superintendent of the Okaloosa County School District effective July 17, 2019 at 1:43 p.m.

I was born and raised in Okaloosa County, a product of its award-winning school system, and began my own career as an educator with the Okaloosa County School District more than thirty years ago. Since the start of my career, my service to this District has been a point of tremendous pride and joy, rivaled only by my family and my faith. After many rewarding years as a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator, I was twice elected as Superintendent of Schools, thanks to the abiding support and vision of the voters of Okaloosa County.

As Superintendent, my singular focus has been to ensure that all students have the same opportunity to learn in a safe and positive setting from teachers who are knowledgeable, motivated, and engaged. With the unwavering support of a remarkable team of educators, administrators, and staff, the District has seen improvements across the board during my tenure, including restoration and increases of funding for arts and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs, enhancements to student safety and campus security measures, improved graduation rates, and more. With grandchildren in this District, including one in the ESE program, these initiatives are near and dear to my heart.

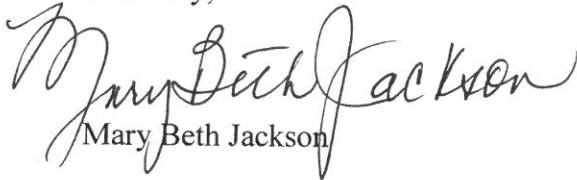
When my dedication to the District and its pupils came under fire in recent months, I was moved to tell the students, parents, educators, and all others with a stake in the integrity and well-being of our District the unvarnished truth of the claims lodged against me. I thank you, Governor DeSantis, for your receptive ear and resulting decision to reinstate me to my rightful position as Superintendent of the Okaloosa County School District.

Notwithstanding my gratitude, and that of my supporters, for my position having been restored, a solemn commitment to the values that have guided me throughout my career—placing the needs and betterment of students above all else—compels me to relinquish my role. To do its best work, a school district requires not only wise and humble leadership, but stability. With a new

school year upon us, and an elections cycle shortly after promising further change, added interruptions to the continuity of District leadership would not be in the best interests of the children whom I, as Superintendent, am duty-bound to serve.

Thus, upon somber deliberation, I resign my position as Superintendent and look thoughtfully forward to a new chapter, retiring in the place that has shaped my life from the start, Okaloosa County, Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Jackson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Mary Beth Jackson