



Louisiana Special School District

LSVI Executive Director Candidate Bios

**(in alphabetical order by last name)*

Susan Covington

Susan Covington has a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communications, National Board Certification in English Language Arts/Early Adolescence, Middle School English Language Arts Grades 4-8, Elementary Grades 1-5, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, National Board Certification in UEB Braille, and Educational Leadership. She has been in education for the past eighteen years as a teacher, master teacher, mentor teacher, and instructional coach. She has presented information on literacy at the district-level, statewide, and nationally. She sat on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Standard Setting Board for Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) and served on both content and bias committees for English Language Arts Testing in Louisiana and nationally. She has been a member of the LSVI Advisory Council, which advises and advocates for the highest quality supports and services for blind and visually impaired students with parents, leadership, VI experts and VI role models.

Covington is currently an instructional support strategist for the Special School District. This year she has spent time as the acting principal for Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired and acting assistant administrator, and instructional support. She believes every student deserves excellent teachers who have high expectations for their students. She believes every student can meet his or her maximum learning potentials when provided with high-quality curriculum, including the Expanded Core Curriculum. Blind and visually impaired students learn in a highly accessible environment that adheres to their individual needs as described in the student's IEP. When students graduate, they must be college and/or career ready and adulthood. Covington believes LSVI has to grow each student's abilities, skills, talents, and values, creating opportunities and removing barriers for students to be successful and enjoy their lives.

Covington is a strong advocate for shared leadership with all stakeholders because this type of leadership creates shared responsibility where everyone works towards the same goals and vision. Covington plans to continue building on her seven years of



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experience at LSVI to create a strong culture and to build trust with honesty, transparency, and accountability.

She believes with a shared leadership model and a strong culture, LSVI can become a national model of excellence serving students who are blind or visually impaired.

Melanie Hall

Mrs. Melanie Hall is a Louisiana native who has lived in the Baton Rouge area since 2005. She earned her undergraduate degree, and went on to obtain her Masters of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana State University. She holds certifications in English and social studies education, as Teacher of the Visually Impaired, and as an Educational Leader.

Mrs. Hall is beginning her 14th year in education. Throughout her time as an educator, she has held positions teaching English, social studies, reading intervention, and serving as a mentor and master teacher. Additionally, she had the opportunity to work at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired for eight years, serving as the school's Principal for five years.

As the school leader, Mrs. Hall worked closely with the leadership team, and school and district staff to promote school wide growth by implementing initiatives and aligning resources to support the school vision and key priorities. During this time, she was able to increase her knowledge while gaining first-hand experience which she believes is critical when making decisions regarding the educational program for visually impaired students.

Mrs. Hall believes in a student-centered approach to education. She recognizes that all students are unique and deserve access to a high-quality educational program which promotes a culture of learning through strong curriculum implementation, effective instructional practices, postsecondary preparation, and individualized student support within a safe and positive environment. She values input from all stakeholders, and believes in the importance of empowering those around her to execute a vision of shared leadership and educational excellence.

Mrs. Hall enjoys working with students and collaborating with the school team to implement new and innovative strategies within the school.



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She strives to be an inspirational leader who motivates those around her to reach their full potential. She considers herself a lifelong learner and aspires to continue promoting growth in the students she serves. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two boys, traveling, and playing tennis.