

NEWS

# Becton school chief honored by business journal for leadership

[Citlalli Godinez](#) NorthJersey.com

Published 4:28 a.m. ET Oct. 6, 2021

As a first-generation American, Dario Sforza believes education is liberation.

"It allows you to explore different possibilities and break free from the stigmas and titles that are placed on you no matter what ethnic or religious background you come from," said Sforza, the superintendent of the Becton Regional School District.

"Education continuously allows one to evolve and is considered the infinite discovery of ourselves and the world around us," he said.

Sforza, who joined Becton Regional in 2014, has been recognized as one of NJBiz's 2021 "Forty Under 40" leaders. The business journal cited his "leadership, vision, effective communication and dedication for the three communities he serves — each critical components of running a successful school district."

The awardees were chosen by an independent panel of judges after an open nomination process. Honorees contribute to industries including health care, finance, sports, law and education, as leaders and founders, partners, executives and trailblazers, NJBiz says.

Sforza said the award "put the spotlight on the successes and daily wins we have here at the district."

In 2019, Becton was chosen to accept students from Maywood, who previously attended Hackensack High School. Becton now serves students from East Rutherford, Carlstadt and Maywood.

**Vaccine:** NJ's largest health system says 99% at least partially vaccinated

"The merger illuminated all the hard work my team and I have put in throughout the last years," said Sforza, whose salary is just over \$186,000.

Looking to the future, Sforza said there are plans to expand the campus and make it one of the most energy-efficient in the Northeast.

His tenure hasn't been without rough patches. Sforza acknowledged being named in a lawsuit last year by Louise Clarke, the district's first female superintendent, who said the district tolerated gender discrimination.

"I went about it with a positive mindset and dealt with challenges as they came," Sforza said. "In my business, so long as you do everything right, when those challenges come up you tackle them with confidence."