



Dana's early school years were spent in rural Missouri and Arkansas. Her family moved to St. Louis just before junior high, where she graduated from Hazelwood High School. As she entered college, Dana remembered her elementary years with fondness and pursued a degree in elementary education with a minor in Spanish. Her first teaching experience was in Hannibal, Missouri. During the beginning years as a professional, Dana was challenged by the diverse needs of her students. Therefore, she returned to MU and earned a degree in Special Education with an emphasis in literacy. She then taught in Blue Springs and Raytown, Missouri for several years, before accepting a position with the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics-Rusk Rehabilitation in Columbia. Dana worked with developmental pediatric teams who supported youth with medical conditions that impacted their learning and school experiences. She partnered with families and school districts to create successful learning environments and educational programs

for students with unique needs. During this time, Dana pursued her doctorate in Special Education with an outside area in Clinical Psychology, and ultimately served as the Co-Director for the Children's Assessment Clinic.

After nearly a decade of working in a clinical setting and partnering with Districts as a consultant, Dana felt she should apply what she was learning in school and clinical practice in the classroom to see if she could truly practice what she preached. Dana returned to the classroom as a teacher in Columbia, Missouri. During her time with Columbia Public Schools, Dana served as a teacher, literacy coach, Assistant Director and Director of Special Services, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and Deputy Superintendent. She retired from public education in June, 2017.

Dana joined EdCounsel as Director of Educational Practices to support the firm's dedication to apply law in school settings in the most practical and useful manner. She enjoys working with a principle-driven firm that embodies service before self.

Dana and her husband, Curt, have one son, who graduated from Columbia Public Schools.

