

Doris Ross Reddick received her master's degree from USF in Special Education in 1970. She began her teaching career as a substitute teacher at Simmons, one of the Strawberry Schools of Plant City, in 1974 and later as a full-time teacher at Dunbar, Meacham and College Hill Elementary Schools. She integrated George Washington Elementary in the Kingston New York public school system by becoming their first Black teacher at that school.

Upon returning to Tampa she rejoined the Hillsborough County School System as a resource teacher. After two years she served as a Reading Specialist at Carver Elementary. She later became the first Black Learning Specialist/Assistant Principal in the county working at Thonotosassa Elementary School. She was appointed as an Educational Diagnostician with the Model Cities Educational Component of the County System and later as a Curriculum Coordinator for Early Childhood Learning Centers.

Also during her career she taught adult evening classes at Blake, lectured at Hillsborough Community College and USF, was a USF Criminal Justice Department special research project interviewer, trained Head Start teachers and was a member of the planning team for the first Hillsborough County public school Head Start and kindergarten programs. Mrs. Reddick retired from the Hillsborough County School System in 1980 after a full and rewarding career. In 2009 the Doris Ross Reddick Elementary School was dedicated to honor Mrs. Reddick's service. This was another historical moment for at that time she joined the rank of her mother, who Clemmie Ross James Elementary School was named for in 2005.

In 1992 Reddick was elected to the Hillsborough County School Board becoming the first Black woman to hold that position and two years later was unanimously elected as chair and the first Black woman to serve in that capacity. She became the voice for children and minority businesses and under her leadership annual minority business allocations rose from a meager \$1,084 to millions. She served three terms totaling twelve years and retired in 2004.