



Council of the Great City Schools 2007-2008 Annual Report



Executive Committee - 2007-2008

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Deborah Shanley, Brooklyn College CUNY Dean, Ex Officio

Cover Photos: Top Photo: Students from Broward County Public Schools

Bottom Photo: Students from Jackson Public Schools

Table of Contents Page: Student from Broward County Public Schools

Page 3 Photo: Students from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Page 9 Photo: Students from Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Page 23 Photo: Students from Newark Public Schools



Table of Contents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Message from the Chair | 12 Legislative/Policy Conference |
| 2 Message from the Director | 14 Highlights of Council Activities |
| 4 About the Council | 18 Award Programs |
| 6 Vision | 20 Financial Report |
| 8 Organizational Structure | 21 Sponsors |
| 10 Characteristics of the Great City Schools | 22 Publications |
| 11 Annual Fall Conference | 23 Council Staff |

Report Prepared by:
Tonya Harris, Communications Manager & Henry Duvall, Director of Communications
Photography by Alex Jones & Clarence Tabb Jr.

Message from the Chair



June 30, 2008

The Council of the Great City Schools and its members are champions for public education, tirelessly advocating for quality education for all of our nation's students. Through the Council, board members, superintendents and staff work side by side to achieve academic gains and a bright future for young people of all economic, ethnic, social and regional backgrounds. This commitment to children and to the principles of public education made serving as chair a highlight of my career.

Over the past year, the Council continued to help shape legislation in order to strengthen the quality of public schools. Council members hosted many briefings and conferences to submit formal comments and recommendations to educate legislative groups on the effects of the *No Child Left Behind* Act and encourage lawmakers to make needed changes to the act.

A city-by-city report on student performance and achievement gaps put out by the Council, called *Beating the Odds*, put the spotlight on urban school academic progress by garnering nationwide media coverage.

The Council represented urban school district interests in numerous meetings and presentations to national research and policy organizations. The Council worked closely with those involved in the newly proposed regulations to Title I and Title III.

The award-winning *Urban Educator* continues to showcase the great ideas as well as the challenges that districts face nationwide. Highlights from across the country are also seen through the inaugural edition of the *Good News About Urban Public Schools* booklet.

The Council's extensive work with Congress and other federal policymakers will undoubtedly have a positive affect on every urban school student.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated staff of the Council. The respect Michael Casserly garners across the country and on Capitol Hill benefits all of our districts. He speaks of difficult and controversial issues with knowledge and integrity and advances the mission of urban education. Michael is supported by an outstanding staff that hosts top-notch meetings and conferences, successfully pursues legislative and policy agendas and conducts research meaningful to all districts.

Congratulations on a successful year. I look forward to the accomplishments of 2008-09.

Carol Comeau
Chair of the Board

Message from the Director



June 30, 2008

I am pleased to present this annual report to the membership on the activities of the Council of the Great City Schools during the organization's 2007-2008 program year.

This was another excellent and productive year for the Council. The organization has moved aggressively into its second fifty years with new research, stronger advocacy, and better technical assistance than ever before. We capped the year with our Annual Fall Conference in Nashville in October. The Nashville schools were superb in hosting one of our finest meetings ever.

Along the way this year, the Council published the eighth edition of its *Beating the Odds* series capturing the progress that the membership is seeing on state assessments in reading and math. The group also oversaw the expansion of the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP to 18 cities, and released fresh data showing substantial progress on the nation's toughest test. The Council also released an expanded version of its groundbreaking benchmarking study, *Managing for Results*. The report includes new statistics comparing member operations in finance, information technology, human resources, transportation, food services, maintenance, procurement, and security.

The Council also continued our award-winning Public Service Announcements that have now been viewed over 300 million times since 2004, and conducted national polling to gauge how the public thought of its urban schools.

We also conducted nearly two dozen Strategic Support Teams, providing technical assistance to our members in both instructional and non-instructional areas. We expanded our Urban Research Fellowship program and published new research briefs in the areas of English language learners, high school transitions, and effective teachers. And we launched a major new study on academic improvements among English language learners in urban schools.

The Council also continued its aggressive and well-known advocacy on Capitol Hill and in the federal agencies and courts. But the reauthorization of *No Child Left Behind* clearly will have to wait for another day.

Our most important work, however, has involved the Council's growing ability to meld its many parts into a more cohesive organization designed to improve urban student achievement nationwide. The repositioning puts us in a unique place among national education associations that we hope will help spur our overall performance.

I thank Carol Comeau, superintendent of the Anchorage Public Schools. Her leadership and commitment as council chair this year was extraordinary. She was simply a joy to work with. Finally, I thank the Council staff, whose intelligence, commitment, energy, and endurance continue to awe and inspire me. Thank you.

Michael Casserly
Executive Director



About the Council

The Council of the Great City Schools brings together the nation's largest urban public school systems in a coalition dedicated to the improvement of education for children in the inner cities. The Council and its member school districts work to help our schoolchildren meet the highest standards and become successful and productive members of society.

The Council keeps the nation's lawmakers, the media and the public informed about the progress and problems in big-city schools. The organization does this through legislation, public advocacy, research, and technical assistance.

The organization also helps to build capacity in urban education with programs to boost academic performance and narrow achievement gaps; improve professional development; enhance the opportunity to learn; and strengthen leadership, governance, and management.

The Council of the Great City Schools accomplishes its mission by connecting urban school district personnel from coast to coast who work under similar conditions. Staff with responsibilities for curricula, research and testing, finance, operations, personnel, technology, legislation, communications and other areas confer regularly under the Council's auspices to share concerns and solutions and discuss what works in boosting achievement and managing operations.

In addition, joint efforts with other national organizations, corporations, and government policymakers extend the Council's influence and effectiveness outside member school districts to the larger, interdependent world that will ultimately benefit from the contributions of today's urban students.

Since the organization's founding in 1956, geographic, ethnic, language, and cultural diversity has typified the Council's membership. That diversity propels the coalition forward to see that all citizens receive an education that will equip them with the skills and knowledge to compete successfully in the world marketplace and to enhance the quality of their lives in a society changing with phenomenal speed. The well-spring of accomplishments and innovations rising from our inner cities testifies to the resounding benefits of investment in the nation's urban centers and in their public schools.

At the Annual Fall Conference, Council Chair Carol Co-
meau presents Ex-
ecutive Director Mi-
chael Casserly with
an award for his
30 years of service
with the Council,
as the organization's
treasurer, Carol
Johnson, and chair-
elect, William Isler,
applaud.



Rev. Jesse Jackson
gives the keynote
address at the
Council's Annual
Fall Conference.



College President
and syndicated
columnist Julianne
Malveaux discusses
the need for the
nation to invest in
education at the
Annual Fall Confer-
ence.



Vision

OUR VISION

Urban public schools exist to teach students to the highest standards of educational excellence. As the primary American institution responsible for weaving the strands of our society into a cohesive fabric, we — the leaders of America's Great City Schools — see a future where the nation cares for all children, expects their best, appreciates their diversity, invests in their futures, and welcomes their participation in the American dream.

The Great City Schools are places where this vision becomes tangible and those ideals are put to the test. We will keep our commitments, and as we do and as society supports our endeavors, cities will become the centers of a strong and equitable nation, with urban public schools successfully teaching our children and building our communities.

OUR MISSION

It is the special mission of America's urban public schools to educate the nation's most diverse student body to the highest academic standards and prepare them to contribute to our democracy and the global community.

OUR GOALS

- To educate all urban school students to the highest academic standards.
- To lead, govern and manage our urban public schools in ways that advance the education of our children and inspire the public's confidence.
- To build a confident, committed and supportive urban community for raising the achievement of urban public school children.

Indianapolis Schools Superintendent Eugene White and board member Marianna Zaphiriou attend a session together at the Annual Fall Conference.



Florida's Orange County Schools Superintendent Ronald Blocker, left, facilitates a session on engaging urban high school students at the Annual Fall Conference with North Carolina's Guilford County Schools Superintendent Terry Grier serving as one of the presenters.

Newark Schools Superintendent Marion Bolden poses a question to the panelists at the Council's Town Hall Meeting.



Los Angeles school board member Yolie Flores Aguilar asks U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings a question at the Council Legislative/Policy Conference.

Organizational Structure

School districts located in cities with populations over 250,000 and student enrollments over 35,000 are eligible for membership in the Council of the Great City Schools. Membership is also open to those districts serving a state's largest city, regardless of size.

The **Board of Directors** is composed of the Superintendent and one Board of Education member from each member district, making the Council the only national educational organization so constituted and the only one whose purpose and membership is solely urban. The Board meets twice a year to determine and adopt policies. It elects a 24-member Executive Committee, which exercises governing authority when the Board is not in session.

The Board of Directors established five special task forces in 1998 and 1999 to address major issues facing the membership. Created were a **School Finance Task Force** to explore ways to challenge urban school funding inequities around the nation and an **English Language Learners and Bilingual Education Task Force** to focus on issues around the education of English language learners.

A **Task Force on Achievement Gaps** was established to eliminate gaps in the academic achievement of students by race. A **Task Force on Leadership and Governance** addresses the increasing concern about issues surrounding urban school leadership and management; and a **Task Force on Professional Development** explores ways to give teachers and administrators the latest tools and techniques to improve student achievement.

Three Subcommittees of the Executive Committee provide support in financial and organizational areas:

By-Laws: Defines the Council's mission, responsibilities, and composition within the framework of applicable laws and regulations.

Audit: Reviews and studies budgetary matters and ensures that revenues are properly managed.

Membership: Determines eligible cities for membership and recruits, screens, and recommends new members.

In addition to these governing bodies, a network of deans of the **Great City Colleges of Education** and staff liaisons from various school district departments encourages information exchange with counterparts in other cities. Common concerns in areas such as student achievement, public relations, technology, human resources, finance, research, legislation, special education, and curriculum connect urban education personnel from member cities to share the ideas and experiences of the larger group.



Characteristics of the Great City Schools

❑ Total Student Enrollment.....	7.2 million
African American.....	37%
Hispanic	35%
White.....	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	6%
Alaskan/Native American.....	1%
❑ Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility.....	64%
❑ English Language Learners.....	17%
❑ Students With Individualized Education Programs (IEP's).....	13%
❑ Total Number of Teachers.....	449,155
❑ Student-Teacher Ratio.....	16:1
❑ Number of Schools.....	11,400

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Conferences

Curriculum Directors & Research Directors Joint Meeting

July 12-14, 2007 • Portland, OR

Public Relations Executives Meeting

July 13-15, 2007 • Phoenix, AZ

Executive Committee Meeting

July 20-21, 2007 • Anchorage, AK

Chief Financial Officers Conference

October 2-6, 2007 • Miami, FL

Annual Fall Conference

October 31-November 4, 2007 • Nashville, TN

Executive Committee Meeting

January 25-26, 2008 • Austin, TX

Supplemental Services/Title I Meeting

January 29-30, 2008 • Nashville, TN

HRD/Personnel Directors Meeting

February 20-23, 2008 • Jacksonville, FL

Legislative/Policy Conference

March 15-18, 2008 • Washington, DC

Chief Operating Officers Conference

April 15-19, 2008 • Indianapolis, IN

Bilingual Directors Meeting

May 8-10, 2008 • Austin, TX

E-Rate Meeting & Student Information Systems Symposium

June 3-4, 2008 • Providence, RI

Chief Information Officers Meeting

June 4-7, 2008 • Providence, RI

Annual Fall Conference

Big-city school leaders from across the country assembled in Nashville to discuss initiatives to improve the quality of education for children in the nation's urban school systems at the Council's 51st Annual Fall Conference, held October 31- November 4.

Hosted by the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, the conference featured a 90-minute town hall meeting on the "Ramifications of the Supreme Court Decision in Louisville and Seattle Cases," moderated by Columbia University law professor Patricia Williams. The panel consisted of leaders from school districts in Seattle and Louisville, as well as Nashville, San Francisco and Kansas City, Mo.



San Francisco Schools Superintendent Carlos Garcia shares his views at the Council's Town Hall Meeting as fellow panelist, Kansas City school board member David Smith, looks on.

Conferees heard from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said that the issue of public education in America is not being adequately addressed and urged educators to become more vocal about the need for lawmakers to adequately fund urban schools.

Author and professor Michael Eric Dyson stresses the need for more education funding.



In a rousing luncheon address, author and cultural critic Michael Eric Dyson told urban educators that they are on the frontlines of defending the nation's urban centers and are helping children make mental and intellectual strides. A professor at Georgetown University, Dyson received his

diploma at night and told conferees that he fears the educational services he received will no longer be available for the next generation because of cuts in education funding.

College President Julianne Malveaux discussed the need for the nation to invest in education and said the nation's failure to adequately fund education will result in a very divided nation, between those who have education and those who do not.

The conference also featured numerous sessions which zeroed in on issues of utmost importance to big-city school leaders, including recruiting and retaining quality teachers and increasing student achievement.

Legislative/Policy Conference

Urban school superintendents, administrators, board members and deans of colleges of education from around the nation convened in Washington, D.C., for the Council's Annual Legislative/Policy Conference.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings discusses how the *No Child Left Behind* Act has benefited urban schoolchildren.



U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings praised urban school districts for being on the frontline of education reform and noted that several big-city school systems are outpacing the achievements of other districts in their states.

A graduate of the Houston, Independent School District, Spellings noted how the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act has benefited urban students because the law was intended to give more focus on the needs of minority children.

Conferees heard from Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia, who discussed how the nation can improve high school graduation rates.

Also addressing the conference was John Sarbanes (D-Md.), who as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, will review several issues concerning NCLB. The congressman said he believes the education law has put a clear focus on student achievement but that NCLB needs to be thoroughly reviewed so Congress can find out how the law is working, or in some cases not working, to improve student achievement.



Rep. John Sarbanes discusses education issues at the conference.

Council director of legislation Jeff Simering, left, moderates a session on education issues featuring Sen. Clinton adviser Catherine Brown and Sen. Obama adviser Steve Robinson.



And while education issues have not received a great deal of attention in the Democratic and Republican presidential primary campaigns, the issue took center stage when education advisers of Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama participated in a session titled "Education Issues from the Presidential Campaigns."

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, second from right, poses with, left to right, Houston Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra, Anchorage Schools Superintendent and Council Chair Carol Comeau and Council Executive Director Michael Casserly at the Council Legislative/Policy Conference.



Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and former governor of West Virginia, addresses urban educators on ways to increase high school graduation rates.

The 2007 recipients of the Council's and Texas Instruments' Marcia Page Scholarship, Candice Wilson, left, and Parhys Napier, third from left, are congratulated by scholarship namesake Marcia Page, second from left, and Texas Instruments' Clara Tolbert.



Highlights of Council Activities

PUBLIC ADVOCACY

The Council of the Great City Schools works to give the public and the press a balanced and accurate view of the challenges, developments, and successes of urban public schools. In 2007-2008, the Council—

- ❑ Wrote commentaries for the *Washington Post*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and *Birmingham News*.
- ❑ Conducted a national media conference call to release *Beating the Odds VIII*.
- ❑ Participated in the release of the 2007 Trial Urban District Assessment results in math, reading and writing.
- ❑ Published the first-of-its-kind *Good News About Urban Public Schools* booklet.
- ❑ Made a presentation on the achievement gap to *Washington Post* reporters, columnists and editors.
- ❑ Conducted national public opinion research to gauge the public's perceptions of urban schools.
- ❑ Participated in a live *Education Week* online chat about achievement in urban schools.
- ❑ Arranged participation of urban students in a U.S. Supreme Court project.
- ❑ Continued airing the organization's public service announcements on television and radio across the nation.
- ❑ Fielded scores of inquiries from such national media outlets as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Christian Science Monitor*, ABC News and the Associated Press.
- ❑ Appeared on ABC Evening News and the NewsHour on PBS.
- ❑ Continued to establish and reinforce relations with the nation's reporters, editors and news executives at the conferences of the Education Writers Association and the National Association of Black Journalists.
- ❑ Released a press statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Seattle-Louisville desegregation cases.
- ❑ Coordinated the organization's annual National Town Hall Meeting, which focused on the "Ramifications of the Supreme Court Decision in Louisville and Seattle Cases."
- ❑ Garnered journalism awards for the *Urban Educator* newsletter and the organization's Annual Report.
- ❑ Published eight issues of the *Urban Educator*.
- ❑ Conducted the Seventh Annual Public Relations Executives Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

In voicing its proposals and ideas to Congress and other federal policymakers, the Council helps shape legislation to strengthen the quality of schooling for the nation's urban children. In 2007-2008, the Council—

- ❑ Conducted numerous meetings, briefings, and conference calls with the membership on the reauthorization of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB).
- ❑ Submitted extensive comments and recommendations to the Education Committees in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on reauthorization proposals for NCLB.
- ❑ Testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor on the impact of the draft NCLB reauthorization proposal.
- ❑ Promoted increased appropriations resulting in more than \$1 billion in new Title I funding.
- ❑ Worked to pass a new \$6.4 billion program to modernize school buildings and promoted the extension of the tax-subsidized, school renovation bonds (QZABs).
- ❑ Fought to extend and expand health coverage for low-income children under the expiring Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- ❑ Worked for Congressional passage of a temporary moratorium against Medicaid funding cuts.
- ❑ Submitted formal comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on eliminating current Medicaid administrative and transportation services.

Highlights of Council Activities

- ❑ Submitted formal comments to the U.S. Department of Education on newly proposed regulations for Title I and Title III programs.
- ❑ Negotiated an extension of the flexibility agreement with the U.S. Department of Education allowing selected districts to provide supplemental services.
- ❑ Submitted formal comments to the Federal Transit Administration on a proposal limiting the availability of public transportation to city school systems.
- ❑ Hosted monthly E-Rate conference calls between Council districts and the Universal Service Administrative Company of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- ❑ Worked with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund to develop strategies to assist urban districts in preventing re-segregation within the parameters of the recent Supreme Court decisions.
- ❑ Convened the Spring Legislative Conference and numerous other forums.
- ❑ Provided technical assistance and answered hundreds of questions from Council members on federal legislation and *No Child Left Behind* implementation.
- ❑ Fielded scores of requests from Congress for technical assistance and information on school construction, high school reform, teacher training, technology education, and school-based Medicaid.

RESEARCH

Timely data collection and analysis allow the Council to prepare comprehensive reports, predict trends, and assess the effects of various policies, reforms, and practices on student performance. In 2007-2008, the Council—

- ❑ Convened the 2007 annual meeting of Research and Curriculum Directors in Portland, Oregon.
- ❑ Launched the first round of projects for the Council's Senior Urban Education Research Fellows.
- ❑ Convened the Research Advisory Committee for the Senior Urban Education Research Fellowships.
- ❑ Selected the second round of grants for the Council's Senior Urban Education Research Fellows.
- ❑ Published research brief on *Supporting Successful Transitions to High School*.
- ❑ Published research brief on *Improving Teaching and Learning for English Language Learners in Urban Schools*.
- ❑ Published research brief on *Recruiting and Retaining Effective Teachers in Urban Schools*.
- ❑ Continued to lead the Institute for Education Sciences' Task Force on urban education research.
- ❑ Collaborated with Scholastic, Inc. to initiate a multi-district study of the implementation of Read 180.
- ❑ Fielded the sixth survey of urban school superintendents' characteristics, tenure, and salary.
- ❑ Fielded and collected results from a survey on urban high school reform.
- ❑ Represented urban school district interests and perspectives in numerous meetings and presentations to national research and policy organizations.
- ❑ Responded to member requests for statistical information and research assistance.
- ❑ Collaborated with the Consortium for Chicago School Research on a program to train and support districts in the implementation of secondary school tracking systems.
- ❑ Collaborated with the National Center on Time and Learning on a Hewlett Foundation project to create a national database of extended school learning programs.

Highlights of Council Activities

ACHIEVEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

Improving the performance of all students and closing achievement gaps is one of the Council's most important priorities. In 2007-2008 the Council—

- ❑ Facilitated two meetings of the Task Force on Achievement Gaps at the Fall Conference and Legislative meeting.
- ❑ Published the eighth annual edition of *Beating the Odds: A City-by-City Analysis of Student Performance and Achievement Gaps on State Assessments*.
- ❑ Provided Strategic Support Teams to Newark (instruction), Detroit (instruction), New York City (special education), Milwaukee (alternative education), Wilmington (instruction) and other cities to help improve school achievement.
- ❑ Led the expansion of the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP to 18 cities for 2009.
- ❑ Conducted numerous presentations to national organizations, community groups, state and federal legislators and business leaders on Council efforts to improve student achievement.

LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

A Task Force on Leadership, Governance and Management addresses the quality and tenure of leadership and management in urban schools. In 2007-2008, the Council—

- ❑ Facilitated meetings of the School Finance and Leadership, Governance and Management Task Forces.
- ❑ Provided Strategic Support Teams to Birmingham (organizational structure), Cleveland (safety & security), Columbus (finance, food services & information technology), Detroit (facilities, finance & information technology), Indianapolis (transportation), Providence (human resources), Seattle (capital program, facilities, finance, transportation, human resources & information technology).
- ❑ Convened annual meetings of Chief Financial Officers, Human Resources Directors, Chief Operating Officers, and Chief Information Officers.
- ❑ Presented Distinguished Service Awards in Finance and Business Services.
- ❑ Convened a summit of member districts on Student Information Systems to identify problem areas and solutions.
- ❑ Conducted focus groups on Enterprise Resource Planning; OPEB liability, obligations & 403(b) program compliance; and alternative school financing models.
- ❑ Published and expanded edition of the Council's groundbreaking benchmarking study, *Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools, A Report of the Performance Measurement & Benchmarking Project*.
- ❑ Launched a national awards program, the Award of Excellence for Financial Management.
- ❑ Expanded the Council's automated document warehouse — EduPortal — that now includes over 36,000 documents and that was accessed nearly 2,100 times.
- ❑ Fielded numerous member requests for management information.

Highlights of Council Activities

BILINGUAL, IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE EDUCATION

America's urban schools serve unusually large numbers of students whose families have come to this nation to seek a better life. In 2007-08, the Council—

- ❑ Convened two meetings of the Task Force on English Language Learners and Bilingual Education.
- ❑ Hired a new staff member to oversee English language learner programs, legislation, and strategic support.
- ❑ Convened a three-day conference for the directors of bilingual, immigrant and refugee education programs.
- ❑ Negotiated a seat at the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Partnership of the U.S. Department of Education.
- ❑ Advocated on behalf of the Chicago school system faced with state assessment policy changes affecting English Language Learners.
- ❑ Successfully negotiated to keep Title III a formula grant program for English language learners under NCLB.
- ❑ Launched the Council's *Succeeding with English Language Learners* study.
- ❑ Provided a Strategic Support Team to the Seattle schools on their bilingual education program.

SCHOOL FINANCE

One of the priorities of the Council of the Great City Schools is to ensure that its students have the same opportunity to meet the nation's academic standards as students anywhere. In 2007-2008 the Council—

- ❑ Convened two meetings of the Task Force on School Finance.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Council works tirelessly to manage its resources and ensure the integrity of its programs. In 2007-2008 the Council—

- ❑ Conducted an external audit of the organization's 2007-2008 spending.
- ❑ Received an unqualified audit on 2006-2007 spending.
- ❑ Arranged the Annual Fall Conference in Nashville and 13 staff forums.
- ❑ Continued maintenance and upgrades of the organization's office computers.
- ❑ Continued cleanup and update of the organization's database system.
- ❑ Continued to refine online conference registration system for the membership.
- ❑ Managed financials for forty-two (42) strategic support teams and five (5) grants and projects.
- ❑ Prepaid budget on four (4) grant proposals.
- ❑ Entertained numerous requests for membership information.

Award Programs

RICHARD R. GREEN AWARD



Richard R. Green

During the annual fall conference, the Council bestows the Richard R. Green Award upon a past or present member district superintendent or Board of Education member in recognition of exceptional contributions to urban schools and students. As the nation's highest urban education honor, the award pays tribute to the memory of Richard R. Green, former Minneapolis and New York City Public Schools superintendent, who won distinction as an outstanding educator and leader.

The award, sponsored by ARAMARK Education and Voyager Expanded Learning, includes a \$10,000 college scholarship for presentation to a senior in the winner's school system or system from which the winner graduated.

Elizabeth Reiling, chair of the Boston School Committee, was presented with the award at the 2007 Fall Conference in Nashville. Reiling was appointed to the School Committee in 1994 by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and she has been elected chairperson of the Committee every year since 1998. She has been instrumental in efforts to increase student achievement in the district and narrow the achievement gap between students of different racial groups.



Boston School Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Reiling, right, congratulates John Casper for winning the \$10,000 Richard R. Green college scholarship as Boston Schools Superintendent Carol Johnson looks on. A graduate of the Class of 2008, Casper will attend Boston College and major in secondary education and general history.

Richard R. Green Award Winners

1989	Harry Davis, Retired Member	Minneapolis School Board
1990	James Griffin, Retired Member Timothy Dyer, Executive Director	St. Paul School Board National Association of Secondary School Principals
1991	Paul Houston, Executive Director	American Association of School Administrators
1992	Richard Wallace Jr., Superintendent Emeritus	Pittsburgh Public Schools
1993	Constance Clayton, Superintendent	School District of Philadelphia
1994	Holmes Braddock, Board Member	Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1995	Curman Gaines, Superintendent	St. Paul Public Schools
1996	James Williams, Superintendent	Dayton Public Schools
1997	Maxine Smith, Retired Member	Memphis City School Board
1998	Gerry House, Superintendent	Memphis City Public Schools
1999	Rod Paige, Superintendent Judy Farmer, Board Member	Houston Independent School District Minneapolis Public Schools
2000	Eric Smith, Superintendent	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools
2001	Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent	Cleveland Municipal School District
2002	John Simpson, Superintendent	Norfolk Public Schools
2003	Arthur Griffin, Board Member Franklin Till, Superintendent	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools Broward County Public Schools
2004	Tom Payzant, Superintendent	Boston Public Schools
2005	Anna Dodson, Board Member	Norfolk Public Schools
2006	Beverly Hall, Superintendent	Atlanta Public Schools
2007	Elizabeth Reilinger, Board Member	Boston Public Schools

QUEEN SMITH AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO URBAN EDUCATION

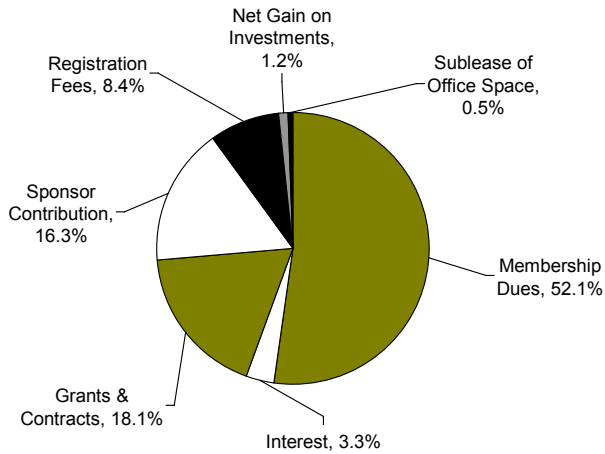
Each year at its annual fall conference, the Council presents the Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education to an urban school educator who has made significant contributions to education and to the community. Sponsored by the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., the award is named in memory of the company's late vice president of urban programs. The winner of the 2007 award was Lois Powell Mondesire, the principal of Strawberry Mansion High School in Philadelphia.

MARCIA PAGE SCHOLARSHIP

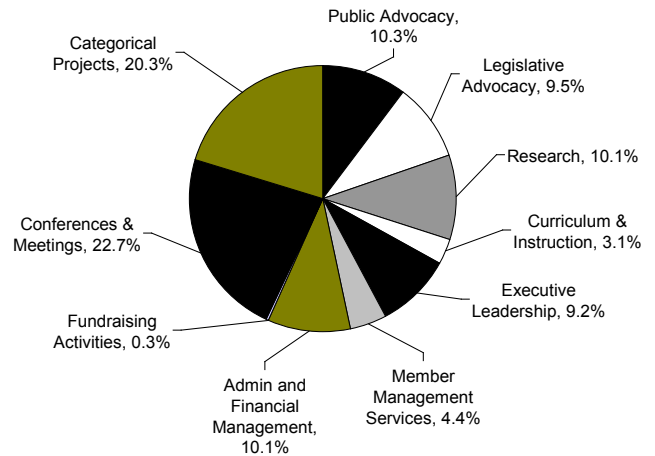
The Marcia Page Scholarship for Mathematics and Science Excellence is sponsored by Texas Instruments and the Council and is awarded to two African-American female students completing their senior year of high school in a Council district. Applicants must be accepted into a college or university and pursue a career in mathematics, engineering or technology. The winners of the 2007 award were Parhys Napier, a student from Florida's School District of Palm Beach County, and Candice Wilson, a student from the School District of Philadelphia.

Financial Report

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Audited Report
FY06-07

Preliminary Estimate
FY07-08

Revenue

	Audited Report FY06-07	Preliminary Estimate FY07-08
Membership Dues	\$2,113,056	\$2,280,698
Interest	129,133	144,063
Grants & Contracts	1,009,599	793,989
Sponsor Contributions	993,150	714,200
Registration Fees	414,605	367,385
Net Gain on Investments	188,152	54,464
Sublease of Office Space	19,157	20,115
Total Revenue	\$4,866,852	\$4,374,914

Expenses

Public Advocacy	\$368,137	\$449,164
Legislative Advocacy	392,670	415,265
Research	345,460	442,477
Curriculum & Instruction	116,363	134,270
Executive Leadership	405,071	403,921
Management Services	175,364	193,777
Admin & Financial Management	771,663	443,963
Fundraising Activities	29,671	13,260
Conferences & Meetings	1,235,731	991,273
Categorical Projects	830,827	887,818
Total Expenses	\$4,670,958	\$4,375,189

Change in Net Assets	\$195,894	(\$275)
Net Assets, Beginning	\$2,390,353	\$2,586,247
Net Assets, Ending	\$2,586,247	\$2,585,972

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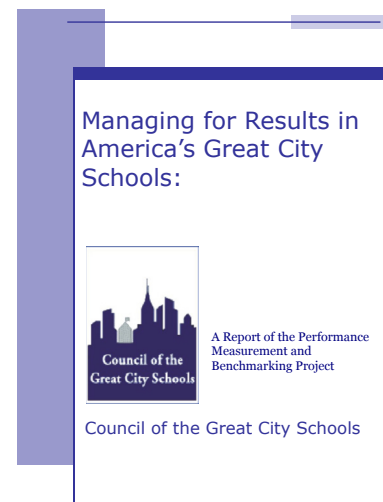
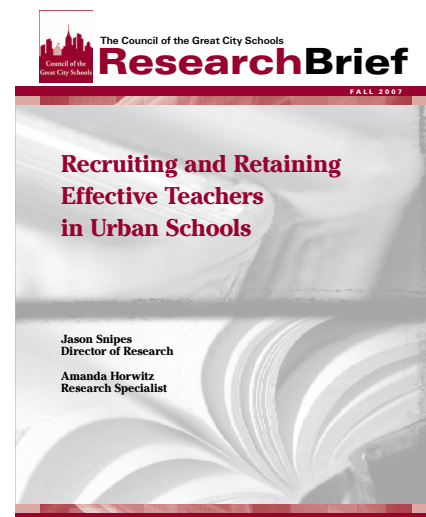
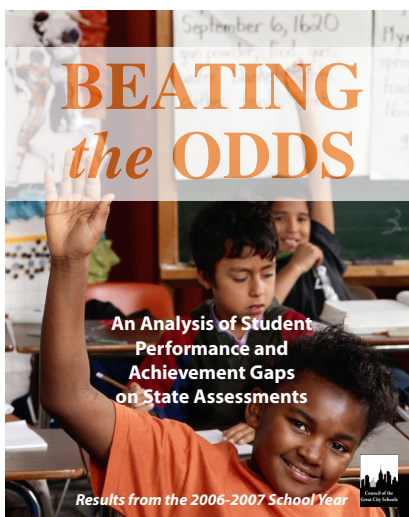
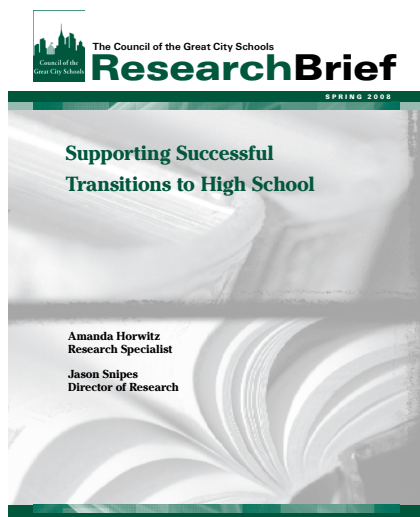
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Publications



- ❑ Beating the Odds VIII: A City-by-City Analysis of Student Performance and Achievement Gaps on State Assessments - Results from the 2006-2007 School Year - April 2008
- ❑ Research Brief: Supporting Successful Transitions to High School - March 2008
- ❑ Good News About Urban Schools - October 2007
- ❑ Research Brief: Improving Teaching and Learning for English Language Learners in Urban Schools - October 2007
- ❑ Research Brief: Recruiting and Retaining Effective Teachers in Urban Schools - October 2007
- ❑ Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools: A Report of the Performance Measurement and Benchmarking Project - April 2007

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Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 702
Washington, D.C. 20004
Phone: 202-393-2427
Fax: 202-393-2400
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