



EMBARGOED UNTIL JUNE 28, 2012

Urban School Districts Lead Movement for Excellent Resources For Teachers and Students

Big-City Public School Systems Join Together to Transform the Quality of Tools for Teachers and Students

NEW YORK -- Leaders from many of the nation's largest urban school districts gathered at the New York Public Library today and committed to using a set of shared, rigorous guidelines that align to the Common Core State Standards to select instructional resources.

The superintendents came together through the joint leadership of the New York City Department of Education and the Council of the Great City Schools, which represents the nation's large urban school districts. Together, Council member districts serve 8 million students and spend \$2-4 billion annually on instructional resources—including textbooks, online materials, and other resources.

“Urban educators know that high expectations are essential for student achievement, particularly in the face of challenges posed by poverty or limited English proficiency,” said Mike Casserly, the executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools. “What the superintendents have made clear today is that high expectations are not enough—our teachers and students need education materials that demonstrate the rigor and quality to help them meet those expectations.”

Casserly was joined in hosting the event by Dennis Walcott, Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. “We worked with our fellow districts to take advantage of the remarkable opportunity presented by the Common Core State Standards,” Walcott said. “We as districts have chosen to embrace the Publishers’ Criteria because our teachers and students have a right to excellent materials, and we are sending a message that nothing less than the highest quality is acceptable for our teachers and students.”

“This is a crucial step toward raising achievement for all students,” added Jean-Claude Brizard, CEO of Chicago Public Schools. “We have adopted world-class academic standards, and high quality tools are the next area of innovation we need to meet those standards. Though the tools and materials we choose might differ in each district, all must meet the same high standard.”

The Publishers’ Criteria are based on the Common Core State Standards and lay out clear criteria for the quality of materials and tools that will deliver the key shifts in the Standards. In ELA/Literacy, these shifts involve students carefully examining a wide variety of texts and using evidence from those texts in writing and speaking. In mathematics, these shifts involve focusing on fewer math topics and treating them with greater depth and rigor.

The superintendents have also committed to rejecting instructional materials that do not meet the Publishers’ Criteria for ELA and Literacy, which is being supported by the participating districts. Districts are committing to a process of incorporating the Publishers’ Criteria for Mathematics into purchasing decisions in the coming months.

“This effort reflects the strongest tradition of local control,” said John Deasy, superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District. “As district leaders, we are united in our commitment to deliver the best resources possible to teachers and students. By acting together, we can ensure that excellent resources are developed and used.”

Committed Districts as of June 27th, 2012

Albuquerque Public Schools
Atlanta Public Schools
Baltimore City Public Schools
Boston Public Schools
Broward County Public Schools
Charleston County School District
Chicago Public Schools
Cincinnati Public Schools
Clark County School District
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Dayton Public Schools
District of Columbia Public Schools
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Indianapolis Public Schools
Jefferson County Public Schools
Kansas City Public Schools

Long Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles Unified School District
Milwaukee Public Schools
Minneapolis Public Schools
New York City Department of Education
Newark Public Schools
New Haven Public Schools
Portland Public Schools
Recovery School District (Louisiana)
The School District of the City of Erie
The School District of Philadelphia
Stamford Public Schools
St. Louis Public Schools
St. Paul Public Schools
Wichita Public Schools

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