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Council of the Great City Schools

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## Urban School Superintendents Staying at the Helm Longer, Says a New Report

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 The nation's big-city school superintendents may have one of the toughest jobs in America, having to unite parents, educators, school boards, as well as business and community leaders behind a clear vision to effectively educate inner-city schoolchildren.

Although they run corporation-size operations that are in the business of providing instruction to a predominantly large number of economically disadvantaged and minority students, today's urban school superintendents are staying in their posts longer.

The average tenure of current superintendents leading the nation's largest urban public school districts has increased to nearly four years, or 3.64 years, in 2010 from little more than two years, or 2.33 years, in 1999, according to a new survey by the Council of the Great City Schools.

The increase shows a 56 percent jump in superintendent tenure since 1999 that has gradually risen every year, the report -- *Urban School Superintendents: Characteristics, Tenure and Salary* -- points out.

"Urban school superintendents are staying in their districts for longer periods of time, which is reflected in the average tenure of immediate past superintendents of 5.1 years in 2010," stressed Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. "Superintendent stability contributes to academic success in an urban school system."

Several current big-city school superintendents have been at the helm in their respective districts for more than 10 years, including Omaha's John Mackiel, Atlanta's Beverly Hall, Orlando's Ronald Blocker and Anchorage's Carol Comeau.

The new report is the Council's seventh survey in a series of *Urban Indicator* publications. Highlights of the 11-page report include the demographics of urban school superintendents, showing approximately 47 percent white, 41 percent black and 11 percent Hispanic, as well as 74 percent men and 27 percent women in 2010. Data are also given on previous work experience, accountability, salaries, benefits and bonuses.

The report can be downloaded at: [http://www.cgcs.org/publications/Supt\\_Survey2010.pdf](http://www.cgcs.org/publications/Supt_Survey2010.pdf)

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