

*Politico*

## Big-city superintendents aren't sticking around long

By [CAITLIN EMMA](#) | 11/07/14 10:01 AM EDT

**BIG CITY SUPES AREN'T STICKING AROUND AS LONG:** The average tenure of the urban school superintendent is slipping, a new survey from the Council of the Great City Schools finds. These administrators are staying on the job for longer than they did a decade ago, but somewhat shorter than in 2010. In 2003, superintendents stayed on the job for about 2.8 years. That increased to 3.6 years by 2010, but fell to 3.2 years in 2014. These administrators have "perhaps one of the toughest jobs in America," the council notes, running huge operations that serve a disproportionate number of low-income students and students of color. "Urban school superintendents were leading their districts for longer periods of time, but significant turnover this year brought the average tenure down," said CGCS Executive Director Michael Casserly. "This continued churn makes it harder for urban school systems to maintain and accelerate the positive academic momentum that they have created over the last several years."

— **CGCS also pointed out that some big-city superintendents** have been on the job for quite a while, including including Christopher Steinhauser of California's Long Beach Unified School District (12 years), MaryEllen Elia of Florida's Hillsborough County Public Schools in Tampa (nine years), Michael Hanson of California's Fresno Unified School District (nine years) and Carole Smith of Oregon's Portland Public Schools (seven years). The survey: <http://bit.ly/1zyRWti>