Statement by Michael Casserly
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools
On the
Nomination of Cindy Marten as Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

The Council of the Great City Schools, the nation's primary coalition of large urban public-school systems, offers its enthusiastic support for the nomination of Cindy Marten as the new Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. Ms. Marten is currently superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District and an active member of the Council.

"Cindy Marten will be the perfect complement to Secretary-designate Miguel Cardona. Both have been school-level leaders and thoroughly understand the complexities of public education at the state and local levels like few other leadership teams in the department's history," said Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools.

Ms. Marten is widely known and respected by her colleagues across the country. She has been superintendent of the San Diego schools since 2013, making her one of the longest serving big-city school superintendents in the nation. Since being named as superintendent, Ms. Marten has spurred graduation rates in the district, developed a reputation for excellence, collaboration, and fairness among district stakeholder groups, and has led the school systems to be among the fastest improving urban school systems in the nation on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Before being named superintendent of the San Diego schools, Ms. Marten served as principal of and teacher in Central Elementary School in the City Heights section of the city. There she improved student outcomes, championed social-emotional learning, boosted the arts, and advocated for greater equity.

"Ms. Marten will serve the new Biden Administration well, and she will keep the needs of students and schools front and center as our new leaders shape policy and advocate for stronger public education," added Casserly. "She is an outstanding choice."

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