SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP
COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Subcommittee on Membership

2022-2023

Subcommittee Goal

To review criteria and applications for membership, and recruit and retain members.

Chair

Joe Gothard, St. Paul Superintendent

Members

Stephanie Elizalde, Dallas Superintendent
Siad Ali, Minneapolis School Board
Elyse Dashew, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board
Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Jesus Jara, Clark County Superintendent
Joyce Wilkerson, Philadelphia School Board

Ex Officio

Kelly Gonez, Los Angeles School Board
## Membership by Region

**October 2022**

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MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY: MONTGOMERY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
July 28, 2022

Dr. Ray Hart
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 1100N
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Dr. Hart,

On behalf of Montgomery Public Schools (MPS) in Montgomery, Alabama, I would like to formally request membership in the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS).

MPS is an urban school district of about 27,000 students and 51 schools that is currently on the rise. The district has overcome many obstacles in recent years, including a lack of local funding. In 2020, Montgomery residents voted overwhelmingly for the first local school funding increase in decades.

The district has a large minority student population that is approximately 80 percent African-American. It is a high-poverty district, and we are committed to providing a quality education and other crucial services to every student from every neighborhood in the city. The fastest-growing demographic in the district is our Hispanic population, and serving families for whom English is a second language is an increasingly important consideration.

Montgomery is the Capital City of Alabama and has a population of just under 200,000. It is slightly larger than the city of Birmingham. A richly historical city, Montgomery is commonly known as the Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement thanks to the world-changing Montgomery Bus Boycott.

I am working hard to help lift Montgomery Public Schools to a new level. As the school district for Alabama’s capital, I believe MPS can and should be a model for the state and the region. I hope to work with CGCS to ensure that MPS and other urban school districts continue to rise.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melvin J. Brown
Superintendent

Clare C. Weil
MCBOE President
MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY: LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
August 2, 2022

Raymond C. Hart, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1100N
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Dr. Hart,

It is with great interest that the Little Rock School District (LRSD) seeks to rejoin Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) as a first-tier member.

Little Rock serves as the capital of the state of Arkansas, and LRSD has the awesome distinction of serving as the capital city’s school district. Currently, LRSD has an enrollment of about 22,000 students. Of our student population, 60% are African American, 19.6% are White, 16% are Hispanic, 3.2% are Asian with the remaining 1.2% composed of other races/ethnicities.

LRSD, the only true urban district in Arkansas, recently slid to become the 2nd largest district in the state; separated by less than 2000 students. About 70% of our student population is considered low income, 14% of our student population are English learners, and 15% are eligible to receive special education services. Little Rock is also the county seat of Pulaski County where 527,000 residents reside. Within Pulaski County, there are three additional public school districts.

We look forward to rejoining CGCS and taking advantage of services available to members. As previously mentioned, I was recently appointed to the superintendent’s position and began my tenure on July 1, 2022. One of the actions in my 100-day plan is to initiate independent reviews of our district systems. This aligns perfectly with the use of CGCS’s Strategic Support Teams to conduct comprehensive reviews of the following LRSD systems: teaching and learning (curriculum and instruction), management and operations (with an enhanced review of human resources), research and assessment, communications, and federal programs.

It is our desire to begin the planning for these reviews as soon as possible - pending membership approval.

We look forward to hearing back and reestablishing our relationship with CGCS.

Jermall D. Wright, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Greg Adams, LCSW, ACSW, FT
Board President