

Longtime executive director at The Council of the Great City Schools steps aside

By Nicole Gaudiano with

12/19/2019 11:20 AM EST

The Council of the Great City Schools' longtime executive director, Michael Casserly, announced on Thursday that he will step aside after 43 years with the council. He will serve as a strategic adviser through 2024.

Casserly served as executive director for 28 years, taking the reins in January 1992 after serving as the group's director of legislation and research for 15 years. The council represents large urban school systems.

"This is the hardest decision I have ever made," Casserly said in a statement. "It has been an honor to lead this organization over so many years. I am extremely proud of the work the Council has done over the decades and I would like to think that urban public education and the children we serve are better off for our efforts."

With Casserly at the helm, the council in 2000 initiated the federal Trial Urban District Assessment, paving the way for the nation's largest urban school systems to directly track the progress of their students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress against other cities, states, and the nation, according to the council. This year, 27 large urban school districts volunteered to participate in TUDA.

The council also says the group played a "major role" in initiating what became known as the Common Core State Standards, and it was the first national membership group to endorse them.