



Powerful Reforms with Shallow Roots: Improving America's Urban Schools

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Drastic reform measures are being implemented in growing numbers of urban communities as the public's patience has finally run out with perpetually nonperforming public schools. This authoritative and eye-opening volume examines governance changes in six cities during the 1990s, where either mayoral control of schools has occurred or where noneducators have been appointed to lead school districts. Featuring up-close, in-depth case studies of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Boston, San Diego, and Seattle, this book explores the reasons why these cities chose to alter their traditional school governance structures and analyzes what happened when the reforms were implemented and whether or not teachers and students performed better because of them.

“Provides useful perspectives on the complexities of educational change that is relevant to all kinds of school systems . . . of interest to elected officials, other policymakers, business leaders, and educators.”

—**Richard W. Riley**, Former U.S. Secretary of Education

“A ‘must-read’ for policymakers intent on improving the academic performance of children in America’s urban centers . . . offers important insight and an excellent overview of the reforms being tested in the six urban centers.”

—**Ted Sanders**, President, Education Commission of the States


“Every urban political official, indeed, every governor, business leader, and state legislator should study the urban school reforms described in this book”

—**James B. Hunt, Jr.**, Former Governor of North Carolina and Chairman, James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy

“A ‘must-read’ for educators. This book clearly defines what it takes to make significant changes in urban districts”

—**Floretta McKenzie**, Former Superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools

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