

Mirrors or Windows: Briefing and Discussion

The working lunch on Friday, November 19th will feature Dr. Ray Hart, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, who will share findings from the Council's recent report, [*Mirrors or Windows: How Well Do Large City Public Schools Overcome the Effects of Poverty and Other Barriers.*](#)

Education is considered an effective path out of poverty, but most educational outcomes are strongly correlated to poverty. How can these apparently contradictory principles be reconciled? Schools can be windows of opportunity and help overcome or mitigate poverty or schools can act as mirrors and reflect society's inequities. This report analyzed the last ten years of NAEP data in reading and mathematics, in grades 4 and 8, to address the question: Are urban public schools, which have the largest numbers and concentrations of poor students in the nation, windows or mirrors?

The report's findings show students in Large City public schools scored higher than predicted on NAEP and than other schools in the aggregate across the nation. The report also showcases the immense value of the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program of NAEP. Dr. Hart will present highlights from the report, after which members will engage in discussion.



Dr. Raymond C. Hart is the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools. Hart, who has more than 20 years of experience in research and evaluation, was previously the Director of Research for the Council, where his work has spanned policy areas such as post-secondary success and college readiness, professional learning communities and school improvement, teacher effectiveness and value-added analysis, early childhood education, and adult and workforce literacy. He has worked with clients from a number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of State, the National Science Foundation, and many state and local departments of education.

Hart recently lead the Analytic Technical Support Task for the Regional Educational Laboratory – Mid Atlantic. He served as the Executive Director of Research, Planning and Accountability for Atlanta Public Schools, President and CEO of RS Hart and Partners, which is an evaluation and assessment consulting firm, and an Assistant Professor of Research, Measurement, and Statistics at Georgia State University. Prior to his work as a consultant, Hart served as the Director of the Bureau of Research Training and Services at Kent State University. His career began in 1989 as a program director for African American,

Hispanic, and Native American students in Engineering and Science.

Hart holds a Ph.D. in Evaluation and Measurement from Kent State University, a M.Ed. with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction – Educational Research from Cleveland State University, and a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.