



Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) Policy Task Force Background

The Council of the Great City Schools (the Council), the nation's leading coalition of large urban school districts, continues to support the ongoing work of the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) Task Force which provides feedback to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). The Task Force offers recommendations on policy, research, and communications related to the TUDA program and plays a key role in shaping the evolution of the TUDA program.

In addition, the Task Force, which convenes twice a year, provides input that reflects the perspectives and needs of large urban school systems. Through this work, the Council ensures that the TUDA program remains responsive, data-informed, and aligned with the priorities of the urban school districts it serves.

Following the 2017 expansion of the TUDA program to 27 districts, the Council established and now coordinates a 10-member Task Force comprising education leaders from TUDA districts, including assistant superintendents and academic leaders, research directors, and communication directors. Members are selected for their expertise in their roles and representativeness from across the TUDAs.

These members bring a wide range of perspectives, offering invaluable insights that enrich the Governing Board's discussions on NAEP. Their contributions help to provide a deeper understanding of NAEP from the TUDA perspective, ensuring that the discussions reflect the unique challenges and opportunities faced by TUDA districts. The composition of the group changes over time, as members transition to new roles outside of TUDA districts or retire.

The current membership of the Task Force is below.

TUDA Policy Task Force Membership 2025		
TUDA District	District Leader	Role
Atlanta Public Schools	Seth Coleman	Director of Media and Social Media
Baltimore City Public Schools	Theresa D. Jones	Chief Achievement & Accountability Officer
Boston Public Schools	Apryl Clarkson	Senior Executive Director of the Office of Data and Accountability
Clark County School District	Greg Manzi	Assistant Superintendent - Assessment, Accountability, Research, and School Improvement Division
Dallas Independent School District	Angie Gaylord	Chief Academic Officer

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TUDA District	District Leader	Role
Denver Public Schools	Simone Wright	Chief of Academics
Detroit Public Schools Community District	Chrystal Wilson	Assistant Superintendent of Communications
District of Columbia Public Schools	Corrine Colgan	Chief of Teaching and Learning
Guilford County Schools	Jusmar Maness	Chief Academic Officer
School District of Philadelphia	Tonya Wolford	Chief Evaluation, Research and Accountability

Once a year, the Governing Board invites representatives from the Council of the Great City Schools, including the coordinator of the TUDA Task Force, to present updates on task force accomplishments at a quarterly board meeting. In this session, Dr. Ray Hart, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, will present alongside Task Force coordinator Dr. Akisha Osei Sarfo. Brief biographies of both panelists are provided below.

Dr. Raymond C. Hart is the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools. Hart, who has more than 30 years of experience in research and evaluation, was previously the Director of Research for the Council, and 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 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.

Dr. Akisha Osei Sarfo is Director of Research at the Council of the Great City Schools, where she guides districts in using data and evaluation to improve equity and student achievement. Previously, she served as Chief Performance Officer for Guilford County Schools, where she led a nationally recognized research and accountability division. She has also held education research leadership roles at Bellwether Education Partners and the University of Delaware and is a former Harvard Strategic Data Project fellow. She earned a bachelor’s in Political Science and a master’s in Educational Research Methods from the University of Michigan. She also received her Ph.D. in Education Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the University of Delaware and is an AERA Dissertation Fellow.