



COUNCIL OF THE
GREAT CITY
SCHOOLS

Council of the Great City Schools®

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 702, Washington, DC 20004
(202) 393-2427 (202) 393-2400 (fax) www.cgcs.org

May 23, 2016

Mr. Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent
Broward County Public Schools
600 Southeast Third Ave. 10th floor
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Robert:

You will find an invoice for the 2016-17 dues to the Council of the Great City Schools enclosed with this letter. We encourage your prompt payment in order to keep your national organization in good financial standing.

Later this summer, you will also receive reports on the Council's activities during the 2015-16 school year and the services provided to your district specifically and to the membership generally—along with a Return on Investment calculation for your district. These reports are designed to answer the question, "What did we get for our dues?"

The Council was incredibly productive this past year. It remains the most effective and aggressive advocate for urban public schools in the nation. A good example was the Council's work during the authorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), where the organization was able to singlehandedly fight back any changes to the Title I formula—changes that would have cost the nation's urban schools hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Council was also instrumental in blocking the Title I "portability" amendment in the Senate. The organization flagged the issue early on, producing the first and most detailed analyses of the effect the amendment would have on major city school systems—something that members of the Senate, the Administration, and other groups looked to in deciding their own positions.

But the Council is not just about federal advocacy—as effective as it is in this arena. It is also about our ability to speak with a single voice about the successes, challenges, and needs of urban schools and the children we serve.

The Council continues to be a critical player in President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper* initiative and led the membership in a pledge to improve the academic outcomes for our males of color—a pledge that the president himself announced and then supported in a White House meeting with the group's Executive Committee.

The group has also made major contributions to the implementation of college- and career-readiness standards in reading and math—even for districts in states that have not adopted the Common Core State Standards. The Council convened numerous meetings, workshops, and forums to help members with implementation. We also finalized and distributed a detailed rubric—the GIMET-QR—to help you select materials grade by grade that are compatible with college- and career-readiness standards, along with guidelines to assess the suitability of materials for English language learners. Moreover, the Council has launched an unprecedented effort to incent publishers to produce higher-quality ELL resources by harnessing the joint-purchasing power of large urban districts.

In addition, the Council launched two new 30-second public service announcements on the standards that are now running in English and Spanish on television and radio stations nationwide. They have been seen or heard some 207 million times in their first 15 months of circulation. In the process, the Council won three Telly Awards for the work.

MEMBER DISTRICTS

Albuquerque
Anchorage
Arlington, TX
Atlanta
Austin
Baltimore
Birmingham
Boston
Bridgeport
Broward County
Buffalo
Charleston County
Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Chicago
Cincinnati
Clark County
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
Dayton
Denver
Des Moines
Detroit
Duval County
El Paso
Fort Worth
Fresno
Gulfport County
Hillsborough County
Honolulu
Houston
Indianapolis
Jackson
Jefferson County, KY
Kansas City
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Miami-Dade County
Milwaukee
Minneapolis
Nashville
New Orleans
New York City
Newark
Norfolk
Oakland
Oklahoma City
Omaha
Orange County, FL
Palm Beach County
Philadelphia
Pinellas County
Pittsburgh
Portland
Providence
Richmond
Rochester
Sacramento
San Antonio
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Ana
Seattle
Shelby County
St. Louis
St. Paul
Toledo
Tulsa
Washington, D.C.
Wichita

The Council also published a guide last year to help you implement the new PARCC, SBAC, and other college- and career-readiness assessments. And our Parent Roadmaps continue to be used by many of you to help your parents understand what their children will be learning at each grade level under the new standards.

In 2015-16 the Council also launched a new set of academic key performance indicators. These indicators build on the nearly 400 operational KPIs that the Council and its membership developed a few years back and continue to use to improve efficiency and save money. The new academic KPIs are a major breakthrough that will allow the members to compare themselves with other urban school districts on instructional benchmarks that predict graduation and performance.

The Council also published a groundbreaking study on the extent of standardized testing in our nation's schools that was covered on the front pages of major newspapers all over the country and prompted President Obama to request an Oval Office briefing on the findings. Moreover, the organization was able to secure additional federal appropriations to expand the number of Council members that could participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP. And the Council continued to strengthen the capacity of its member districts with new Strategic Support Teams, which provided on-site technical assistance in areas ranging from instruction to staffing levels, special education to bilingual instruction, and food services to transportation. The teams are a perfect example of how urban school districts under the Council's umbrella are pulling together to help each other meet our toughest challenges and improve.

If that weren't enough, the Council also conducted one of the most comprehensive surveys of member school board leadership, vision, and governance ever undertaken, and has followed up the work with targeted technical assistance.

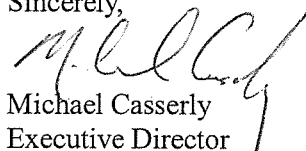
Finally, the organization continues to convene the highest quality forums and conferences to allow you to share your successes and learn from each other. Our annual conference in Long Beach was hailed as our best ever, and our job-alike forums throughout the year allowed district leaders and staff members to exchange best practices and build networks of peer-based support.

To be sure, some of our positions are controversial, but no organization fights more aggressively or successfully for the nation's urban schools and urban schoolchildren than the Council of the Great City Schools. The Council remains the only independent education coalition located in Washington whose sole mission and purpose is the same as yours: the improvement of public education in our Great City Schools.

The Council is a group "fully committed to its constituents" and is listed along with only the NEA, AFT, and the CCSSO by the *Washington Almanac*, as one of the most powerful education groups in Washington. In fact, the Council is considered one of the most effective organizations on Capitol Hill in any field. *Lessons from the Hill* calls the Council "relentless" and critical to Washington's understanding of urban school needs. *USA Today* calls the Council "a crusader for urban education," the *New York Times* describes the group as "influential," and *Education Week* refers to us as "stalwart."

In short, the Council is an organization that belongs solely to urban educators for urban education and urban kids—all the time—for the last 60 years. That commitment is needed now more than ever as we work to implement higher standards, improve academic outcomes, narrow achievement gaps, navigate the ESSA regulations-writing process, orient a new Administration in Washington following the elections, and traverse the fractured debate about public education's future. The many challenges we face will require urban schools to be more vocal, united, and forceful than ever. Our success can be traced directly to you, and to the strength of our alliance. Thank you for your commitment to the Council and our urban schoolchildren.

Sincerely,



Michael Casserly
Executive Director

Cc: Laurie Rich Levinson, Board Member/CGCS Rep

Invoice No. 10-4010-16



Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 702
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 393-2427
E.I.N. 36-2481232

Bill To: Mr. Robert W. Runcie
Superintendent
Broward County Public Schools
600 Southeast Third Avenue, 10th Floor
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

**** INVOICE ****

Date	Description	Amount Due
5/20/2016	FY 2016-2017 Membership Dues Due on or before July 1, 2016	\$54,969.00
TOTAL:		\$54,969.00

Please remit check to the address above