
2007 Finalist Superintendents

Rudolph F. “Rudy” Crew, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Dr. Rudy Crew, a lifelong educator, became superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools in July 2004. Crew began his career as a teacher and then served as principal of several public schools in California. Crew moved into numerous district executive positions, including assistant superintendent for instruction and personnel for the Duarte Unified School District in California, deputy superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Boston Public Schools and deputy superintendent and chief operational officer for the Sacramento City Unified School District. In 1989, Crew became superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District. Then, in 1993, he was named superintendent of the Tacoma Public Schools in Washington. From 1995 to 1999, he served as chancellor of the nation’s largest school district, then called the New York City Board of Education. Before being tapped to lead Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Crew served as executive director of the Institute for K-12 Leadership at the University of Washington and as director of school district reform initiatives at the Stupski Foundation. Crew has received many awards, including The Executive Educator’s “Top 100 Educators in North America” in 1993, the NAACP’s “Educational Leadership Award,” the Association of California School Administrators “Administrator of the Year Award” in 1990 and the California State University’s “Teacher of the Year Award” in 1982. Crew earned his bachelor’s degree in management from Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. and his master’s degree in urban education and doctorate in educational administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. *For more information, please contact Felipe Noguera at (305) 995-1000, fnoguera@dadeschools.net.*

John M. Folks, Northside Independent School District, San Antonio

Dr. John M. Folks was appointed superintendent of Northside Independent School District in July 2002. Previously, Folks served as superintendent of Spring Independent School District in Houston and as superintendent of the Midwest City-Del City Public Schools in suburban Oklahoma City. From 1984 to 1988, Folks served as Oklahoma state superintendent of public instruction. As Oklahoma’s top educational leader, he was responsible for the development of policy and implementation of comprehensive state education plans from early childhood through high school. In that role, he also served on the board of regents for Oklahoma colleges and universities. From 1994 to 1997, Folks served as dean of the School of Education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Folks began his teaching career in the Port Arthur Public Schools in Texas in 1970. He taught and coached in the Western Heights Public Schools in Oklahoma City from 1972 to 1975. Past president of the Texas School Alliance, Folks is also vice president of the Texas Association of School Administrators and serves on the board of directors of the Texas Academic Decathlon and the Texas Association of Suburban/Mid Urban Schools. A native of Oklahoma, Folks earned his bachelor’s degree in education, master’s degree in educational administration and doctorate in educational administration, all from the University of Oklahoma. *For more information, please contact Pascual Gonzalez at (210) 397-8550, pascualgonzalez@nisd.net.*

Joel I. Klein, New York City Department of Education

Joel I. Klein has served as chancellor of the New York City Department of Education since his appointment by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2002. Previously, Klein served as chairman and chief executive officer of Bertelsmann, Inc., one of the world's largest media companies. Klein also served as U.S. assistant attorney general for four years, in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's antitrust division, where he oversaw some 700 lawyers and landmark cases like Microsoft, WorldCom/Sprint, Visa/MasterCard and General Electric, prevailing in a large majority of cases. In addition, he served as deputy counsel to President William J. Clinton for two years. Klein entered the Clinton administration after 20 years of public and private legal work in Washington, D.C., including a clerkship at the U.S. Supreme Court, a partnership at the law firm of Rogovin, Stern & Huger and a partnership at his own firm, Onek, Klein & Farr, where he won nine out of 11 cases he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. A native New Yorker, Klein is a product of the New York City public school system. He earned a bachelor's degree at Columbia University and a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School. During a brief leave of absence from law school, Klein also studied at New York University's School of Education and taught math to sixth grade students in Queens. Klein has served as a visiting and adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. *For more information, please contact David Cantor at (212) 374-4341, dcantor@schools.nyc.gov.*

John J. Ramos, Sr., Bridgeport Public Schools, Connecticut

Bridgeport native Dr. John J. Ramos, Sr., has been superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools since 2005. Previously, Ramos was deputy commissioner for educational programs and services for the Connecticut State Department of Education, where he was responsible for working with urban superintendents to improve the eight Connecticut schools that were in their fourth year of "in need of improvement" under the No Child Left Behind Act. Prior to that, Ramos held positions in various Connecticut districts, including superintendent of Watertown Public Schools, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for Norwalk Public Schools and principal of Norwalk High School. Ramos also served in Providence, R.I. as the principal/director for the Alternative Learning Project High School, as director of minority student affairs for the University of Rhode Island and as program director for the Rhode Island Department of Education. Ramos has received numerous awards, including the "Outstanding School District Leadership" award from the Congressional Black Caucus Education Braintrust. Ramos has a bachelor's degree in English and American literature from Brown University, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Rhode Island and a doctorate in educational administration from Columbia University. *For more information, please contact Cynthia Fernandes at (203) 332-2832, cfernandes@bridgeportedu.net.*

Christopher J. Steinhauser, Long Beach Unified School District

Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of the Long Beach Unified School District, is a long-time Long Beach resident and 26-year veteran educator in the local schools. Steinhauser began his career as a teacher at an inner-city elementary school in Long Beach, then went on to attain very high student achievement as a school principal at Signal Hill Elementary School, which became known as “the miracle on Walnut Avenue” under his leadership. From 1993 to 1996, Steinhauser served as director of special projects services, and from 1996 to 1999, as an area superintendent. He worked his way up to the position of deputy superintendent in 1999 before his unanimous appointment as superintendent in 2002. During his years as deputy superintendent, students in all major racial and ethnic groups throughout the district made unprecedented gains on rigorous state tests. Steinhauser, a product of the Long Beach Unified School District, attended Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach, earning a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies and a master’s degree in educational administration. *For more information, please contact Chris Eftychiou at (562) 997-8250, ceftychiou@lbusd.k12.ca.us.*