



Expert Directory Listing

Expertise: effective school board governance and school district leadership

Don McAdams

President

Center for Reform of School Systems

Don McAdams, a nationally acclaimed expert in effective school board governance, is president of the Center for Reform of School Systems (CRSS), a Houston-based nonprofit dedicated to preparing school board members and superintendents to transform their districts into high-performing organizations that produce high student achievement. At CRSS, McAdams leads The Broad Institute for School Boards, a national school board training program for newly elected and appointed urban school board members and their superintendents, sponsored by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. Under McAdams' leadership, The Broad Institute has trained school boards from more than 30 school districts since 2002. McAdams served as a member of the Houston Independent School District Board of Education for 12 years, during which the district made significant student achievement gains in both reading and math at the elementary, middle and high school levels. During his tenure, which included two terms as board president, McAdams helped implement school accountability and district decentralization, establish charter schools, outsource most HISD business functions to private contractors, institute more flexible personnel management policies, an academic core curriculum for high school students, a new elementary school reading curriculum and promotion standards. In 2002, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige appointed McAdams to the National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity, and in 2003 Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed him to a select committee charged with preparing legislative proposals for a new public school finance system for Texas. McAdams has served as a member of the National Commission on Governance, Education Commission of the States, the Educational Leadership Advisory Council of the Wallace-Readers Digest Funds, and as a consultant to the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. McAdams has been a research professor at the University of Houston; executive vice president at the American Productivity and Quality Center; president of the Texas Independent College Fund; and from 1975 to 1984, president of Southwestern Adventist College. He has written numerous articles in academic journals and is the author of the nationally-acclaimed book, What School Boards Can Do: Reform Governance for Urban Schools.

Professional experience:

- 9 years experience in current position
- 9 years experience in the company/organization
- 39 years experience in the industry