

## The Superintendent's Fieldbook: A Guide for Leaders of Learning

By Harvey S. James Jr., Nelda H. Cambron-McCabe, Luvern L. Cunningham, Robert H. Koff





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*Guidance for ever-changing challenges, success through improved effectiveness*

Equip yourself to face the demands of a superintendent with this practical guide for new and veteran district leaders. Understanding leadership and budgets is only one piece of a pie that has grown to include privatization, performance-based teacher compensation, technology, and global comparisons like PISA. Based on research with 300 superintendents, this new edition is your touchstone for practical advice on how to:

- Survive on the job
- Bargain like a pro
- Work with your school board
- Tackle the achievement gap
- Explain to the public what's right with American schools

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The Superintendent's Fieldbook *accomplishes everything it sets out to do. This remarkable book for new as well as veteran superintendents is thoroughly researched, practical, and compelling. If I could have but one book on my shelf to support the all-encompassing work we do, The Superintendent's Fieldbook would be the one.*" (Suzanne Cusick, Superintendent 2012-11-14)

"*I've found most guides for superintendents to be long on theory and short on practical advice. The Superintendent's Fieldbook doesn't make that mistake. This is where school leaders and aspiring superintendents can learn how to survive on the job, bargain like a pro, engage with the public, and work with their boards while tackling the achievement gap and explaining to the public what's right with American schools.*" (Gloria J. Davis, Superintendent 2012-11-20)

"*These are indeed difficult times to be an educator. To be in a position of leadership is especially daunting. The Superintendent's Fieldbook provides sound guidance to help leaders steer through a sea of half-truths, misleading claims, and misperceptions. More than ever, the public needs leaders who speak with wisdom and authority. This fieldbook will help in that task.*" (Diane Ravitch, Author/ Research Professor of Education 2012-11-26)

"*The Superintendent's Fieldbook combines a lucid review of leadership theory with practical, hands-on advice for school leaders. Learn how to tackle the challenges of the superintendency from people who've done the job. And explore what systems thinking and leadership theory can contribute to the complex challenge of improving American schools.*" (Dan Domenech, Executive Director 2012-11-26)

"*The Superintendent's Fieldbook provides insights, reflections, and invaluable guidance from a practitioner's perspective. By providing a variety of superintendents an opportunity to weigh in on current issues facing public education, this resource is greater than the sum of its parts. The book captures, in print, the depth of conversation, sense of urgency, and passion expressed in the dialogues that take place at the National Superintendent's Roundtable.*" (Steven M. Ladd, Superintendent 2012-11-26)

#### About the Author

**James Harvey** is the Executive Director of the National Superintendents Roundtable and a doctoral student at Seattle University. He is Senior Fellow at the Center on Reinventing Public Education, University of Washington, and was a member of the Danforth Forum's advisory board. Earlier he served in the Carter administration and on the staff of the Education and Labor Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. He helped write *A Nation at Risk* (1983) and, co-authored *A Legacy of Learning* with David Kearns, former CEO of the Xerox Corporation (Washington: Brookings Press, 2000).

Nelda Cambron-McCabe is a professor, Department of Educational Leadership, Miami University, Ohio. She was an advisory board member and a coordinator of the Danforth Foundation Forum for the American School Superintendent. Her recent publications include co-author with McCarthy and Thomas, *Public School Law: Teachers' and Students' Rights 5th ed.*, (Needham, MA.; Allyn & Bacon, 2004) and co-author with Senge, Lucas, Smith, Dutton, and Kleiner, *Schools That Learn* (New York: Doubleday, 2000).

**Luvern L. Cunningham, Ed. D.**, University of Oregon, has served in administrative and teaching roles

from K-12 through graduate school over more than four decades. A member of the Danforth Forum advisory board, his specialties are educational leadership, the school superintendency, educational governance, inter-institutional collaboration and inter-professional education and practice. He served in university professorships at Chicago, Minnesota and Ohio State and, for several years, as Dean of the College of Education, Ohio State University.

**Robert H. Koff** directed the Center for Advanced Learning at Washington University, St. Louis. He previously served as Senior Vice President of the Danforth Foundation, Dean of the School of Education, SUNY at Albany, and professor of education at Stanford University. He served on a number of state and national advisory bodies at the invitations of Governor Mario Cuomo and President Carter and provided editorial advice to journals such as the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

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