



The United States Conference of Mayors

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SACRAMENTO, CA MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSON APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE NEWLY CREATED MAYORS TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, D.C., — U.S. Conference of Mayors President Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz announced the creation of a Mayors Task Force on Public Schools during the Conference's 78th Winter Meeting at the Capitol Hilton Hotel on January 20th, 2010

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson was appointed Chair of the Task Force, and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman was appointed as Vice Chair.

Following announcement of the Task Force, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran stated, "Mayors know how important good schools are in promoting the economic development, vitality and image of a city. Many mayors have expressed a desire to become more involved in local education issues, policies and programs because they understand the consequences for their cities if student performance stagnates and schools are found in need of improvement. We thank Mayor Johnson for his leadership on this issue."

Education is a key issue that mayors have used to improve the public perceptions of their cities. Mayors have issued calls to improve their cities' schools systems as a way to unify citizens to solve problems that affect every resident whether or not they have school-aged children. Make no mistake: mayoral involvement in education and school-related issues makes a difference, no matter what level of input mayors have.

Under Mayor Johnson's leadership, the USCM Task Force on Public Schools will be primarily focused on the role of mayoral leadership in public education. Building on the work done by USCM over the past several years, Mayor Johnson is looking forward to meeting with the Task Force on a quarterly basis and facilitating the implementation of Best Practices. Potential work products coming out of the task force include: an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) policy resolution, an ESEA white paper, and a handbook on mayoral leadership and engagement in education.

Members of the Mayor's Task Force on Public Schools include:

City	Mayor
Sacramento, CA	Kevin Johnson, Chair
St. Paul, MN	Chris Coleman, Vice Chair
Berkeley, CA	Tom Bates
Boston, MA	Thomas M. Menino
Davenport, IA	Bill Gluba
Miami Beach, FL	Matti H. Bower
Nashville, TN	Karl Dean
New Haven, CT	John DeStefano, Jr.
Norfolk, VA	Paul Fraim
Philadelphia, PA	Michael Nutter
Pembroke Pines, FL	Frank C. Ortis
Portland, OR	Samuel F. Adams
Rochester, NY	Robert J. Duffy
Seattle, WA	Mike McGinn

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.