

KENNETH R. TURNER

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PUBLIC POLICY

SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW (pro bono)

2014-January, 2022

The Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, Las Vegas, Nevada

A nonprofit nonpartisan organization, the Center combines research on education-related matters and policy analysis to inform debate, expand engagement, and advance sustainable solutions to pressing problems.

DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL PREPARATION PROJECT

2016-2018

University of the State of New York Regents Research Fund, New York

Funded by the NYC-based *Wallace Foundation*, led efforts of the Principal Preparation Project to improve the cultivation of current and future school building leaders by developing partnerships that couple high-need districts, university programs, and third-party providers. Project culminated in improvements in state regulations that guide the certification of aspiring principals and evaluation of all school building leaders.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER

2014-2015

The Lincy Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Funded by *UCLA DreamFund*, *Windsong Foundation*, and *Lincy Foundation* to assist leadership of the fifth largest district in the nation in conducting research on the effect of performance management techniques to inform policy, enhance practice, and provide a measurable impact on achievement. Efforts included: (a) using value-to-cost ratios to gauge school quality; (b) using a franchise approach to scale up successful school models; and (c) designing ways to deliver outcomes that produced greater value for taxpayer dollars.

URBAN EDUCATION

CONSULTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

2019 - December, 2023

Denver Public Schools, Denver, Colorado

Enlisted as a thought partner for senior leaders of largest public P-12 school system in Colorado, was lead planner for a team charged with designing district-wide equity framework to anchor a next gen *Denver Plan*. Currently under contract to provide advice and support to the Superintendent in the areas of strategic planning, policy governance, equity and engagement, and change management.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

2011-2014

Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada

Led efforts to apply performance management tools in a district of 315,000 students. Coordinated launch of a longitudinal growth model and School Performance Framework. Teamed with superintendent on reform roadmaps ("A Look Ahead: Phase I, Phase II). District state assessment results improved in 11 of 14 areas despite a reduction of \$550M over 3 years (operating budget = \$2.1B). Grad rate grew 59 to 70 % (2011-'14).

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

HEAD OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

2010-2011

Emirates National Schools, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Enlisted to provide advice to Ministry of Presidential Affairs on redesign and operation of national schools.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

2007-2010

Colorado Department of Education, Denver, Colorado

Instrumental in design of a system of accountability and support for a reform-minded state. Responsibilities included revising standards and assessments, initiating closing-the-achievement-gap project, and launching online learning. Co-authored roadmap ("Forward Thinking") and developed break-through growth model:

- State accomplishment: Results from National Assessment of Educational Progress rank Colorado as one of the fastest-improving states in terms of improvement in grade 8 Reading (from 2009-2011).
- Innovation: Offspring from Colorado's ground-breaking growth model are now in use by 20 states.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

2001-2007

Academy School District 20, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Guided academics for high-performing district of 22,000 students adjacent to U.S. Air Force Academy.

Supervised learning services, human resources, and principal supervision. District distinctions included:

- Return on investment: Third International Math and Science Study results in science for Academy students in grade 8 were as high as those from highest scoring countries in the world. At the same time, the district had the lowest per pupil expenditures (\$4,767) of any participant in TIMSS.
- District accomplishment: In 2003 the district was featured on the *Forbes Magazine* web site. In Nov. 2002, *CNN* featured the district for providing exemplary educational value to consumers.

**PUBLIC
EDUCATION****ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

2000-'01

Academy School District 20, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Co-developed grow-our-own program for aspiring administrators. Led effort to establish Achievement Information Management system (online solution producing performance reports to support accreditation).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1996-'00

Adams County School District 50, Westminster, Colorado

Directed curriculum and instruction, staff development, and administrator supervision. Change efforts:

- English Learners: Coordinated standards-based staff development (97% of staff certified).
- Achievement Information System: Designed on line grade book (linked assessments to standards).

DIRECTOR

1994-'96

Adams County School District 50, Westminster, Colorado

Coordinated development and implementation of standards and assessments. Supervised principals.

PRINCIPAL

1991-'94

Mark Twain Elementary, Littleton Public Schools, Littleton, Colorado

School was featured in *Education Week* (1993) and profiled in *Measuring Up* (1995). In 1992, "Twain was cited repeatedly when the Rocky Mountain News asked educators to name state's top schools."**ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1989

Melrose Public Schools, Melrose, Massachusetts

Semester intern to then-superintendent David Driscoll (later Massachusetts Education Commissioner).

**HIGHER
EDUCATION****DIRECTOR, COLLEGE ASSESSMENT**

1989-'90

Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Designed and conducted national study assessing the adequacy of college-wide services.

NGO**DIRECTOR, PUBLIC – PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

1988-'89

Waltham Partnership for Youth, Waltham, Massachusetts

Convened team of government, business, civic and school leaders to advise city on policy and program.

Effort culminated in school-based health services for youth. Mentor was Harold "Doc" Howe III, Ford Foundation VP and U.S. Education Commissioner under President LBJ. Partnership is in operation today.

SERVICE**MEMBER, NATIONAL ASSESSMENT POLICY STUDY – EXPERT GROUP**

2009

National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.

Recruited to design assessment system to accompany common core standards. Joined Gov. Roy Romer, David Coleman, Lauren Resnick, Brian Gong, Andrew Porter, Randy Bennett, Gary Phillips, Marc Tucker.

EXTERNAL EDUCATION EXPERT, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2008-'11

Geneva, Switzerland

Served on Education Committee of IBO Board of Governors to provide guidance on program direction.

CO-CHAIRMAN, COLORADO LITERACY COUNCIL

2008-'09

State of Colorado

ADVISOR, AGA KHAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

2007

Mombasa, Kenya

Invited by the Aga Khan to provide programmatic advice on the design of K12 national academy in Kenya.

TRUSTEE, FOUNDING BOARD, ADVANCED (now Cognia)

2006-'07

Atlanta, Georgia

As the world's largest educational credentialing agency and parent for North Central Association, the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, and the National Study of School Evaluation, AdvancED accredits 23,000 schools in 33 states and 65 nations encompassing 15M students worldwide.

TRUSTEE, BOARD, NCA CASI

2005-'07

Tempe, Arizona

North Central Association: Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement

SERVICE**DIRECTOR, FOUNDING BOARD, C²D³**

2003-2004

Denver, Colorado

Colorado Consortium for Data-Driven Decision-Making

ADVISOR, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANIZATION

2004

Cardiff, Wales

Invited to consult with heads of the primary years, middle years, and diploma programmes about how the IBO will refocus curriculum continuum in ways that contribute to improved teaching and learning.

CHAIRMAN, TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

2004-2009

Colorado Department of Education, Denver, Colorado

Appointed by Governors Owens and Ritter to serve on panel advising the state on longitudinal growth.

MEMBER, TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

2004

Accountability Task Force, Denver, Colorado

Served with CU faculty (Drs. Bob Linn, Lorrie Shepard, and Ed Wiley) on a panel advising CASE and Donnell-Kay Foundation on efforts to bring coherence to state system of educational accountability.

DIRECTOR, LONGITUDINAL GROWTH IN READING PROJECT

1996-2000

Westminster, Colorado

Led team that designed "Adams 50 Reading Assessment" (used by one fourth of all Colorado districts).

CO-CHAIR, STATE TASK FORCE ON ASSESSMENT

1995-1996

State of Colorado

Worked with Dr. Asp (under Dr. Martin at CDE) to design assessments aligned with state standards.

TEACHING**UNIVERSITY FACULTY (ADJUNCT)**

2024

Graduate School of Education, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada

Taught capstone *Seminar on Educational Leadership* to aspiring superintendents in doctoral program

UNIVERSITY FACULTY (ADJUNCT)

2000-2007

Graduate School of Education, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Taught Program Evaluation & Research Methods, Principal Internship, Democracy, Politics & Schools.

UNIVERSITY COURSE DEVELOPMENT

2003-2004

Jones International University, Denver, Colorado

Contributed to development of graduate course on Strategic Planning for aspiring school administrators

UNIVERSITY TEACHING FELLOW

1988-1990

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Developed and helped teach Inquiry (research design) to doctoral students in school administration.

INSTRUCTOR FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

1987

Colorado Migrant Program, Longmont, Colorado

Guided the learning of itinerant Spanish-speaking children.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

1979-1986

Boulder Valley School District, Boulder, Colorado

Served as teacher of Math, Science, Reading and Writing (Flatirons Elementary, Louisville Middle).

LAB SCHOOL TEACHER

1979

UCLA Lab School, University Elementary School, Los Angeles, California

As visiting intern, student taught under Dr. Madeline Hunter, then-Dean of UCLA Grad School of Ed.

RESEARCH**DIRECTOR, STUDIES OF EFFECT OF IB ON GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT**

2005-2007

Academy School District 20, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Guided study identifying aspects of International Baccalaureate that account for student success.

Directed study showing positive effect of IB participation. Effects greater in math than reading. Effects greatest for diploma year and least for middle year program. Outcome measure was state assessment.

DIRECTOR, STUDIES OF VALIDITY, RELIABILITY, AND GAPS

2005-2006

Academy School District 20, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Guided study showing classroom instruments were moderately correlated with performance on state assessment and study showing district gaps were fewer and substantially smaller than those statewide.

RESEARCH**DIRECTOR, LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF STUDENT GROWTH**

2001-2005

State of Colorado

Guided study of 37 districts representing 45% of population (340,000 of 757,688 students). Aim was to quantify subgroup gaps to see if schools make expected yearly progress. Results at www.asd20.org.

VOUCHER PROGRAMS

2003-2004

Bighorn Center for Public Policy, Denver, Colorado

Invited by Bighorn/CASB to help design database researchers can use to study voucher effectiveness.

HUMAN CAPITAL – ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

1991

Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts (findings in Teaching the New Basic Skills, Murnane)

Post-doc studying effect of schooling, demography, and market trends on earnings growth over time.

COLLEGE ASSESSMENT

1987-1988

Harvard Seminar on Assessment, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Researcher in study conducted by Richard Light evaluating efficacy of college academics at Harvard.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

Colorado Association of School Executives, Denver, Colorado

1986

Research assistant to Jim Rose in study analyzing equity of Colorado system of school funding.

PAPERS

K. Turner, (for Leadership Institute of NV), "Adaptability, Innovation, and Leader Preparation" 2021

K. Turner, (for NYS Board of Regents), "Principal Preparation Project Report: Phase 2" 2018

K. Turner (for NYS Board of Regents), "Principal Preparation Project Report: Phase 1" 2017

K. Turner (for Clark County School District), "Inquiry Linking Expenditures and Performance" 2015

K. Turner, (for Clark County School District), "Hazard Impact: Longevity of School Facilities" 2014

K. Turner, (Clark County School District), "Overrepresentation by Race/Ethnicity in Expulsion" 2013

D. Jones (with K. Turner for Clark County School District), "A Look Ahead: Phase II" 2012

D. Jones (with K. Turner for Clark County School District), "A Look Ahead: Phase I" 2011

K. Turner, (for Emirates National Schools), "Curriculum Content Model" 2010

D. Jones (with K. Turner), "Choice and Innovation: Stimulating Education Reform" 2009

K. Turner (with J. Cornier, S. Long), "P3 Practices: Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction" 2008

D. Jones (with K. Turner for Colorado Department of Education), "Forward Thinking" 2007

K. Turner and S. Krebs, "Is Value-Added Ready for Prime Time?" *Headfirst Magazine* 2005

K. Vedra, K. Turner, J. Mahoney "Primary Years and Middle Years Programmes Fly High in Colorado", *International Baccalaureate Organization Annual Year-End Review* 2003

K. Turner, K. Vedra, and S. Krebs "No Child Left Behind: The Goldilocks Syndrome," from April issue of "CASB Director's Insights" titled "NCLB: The Feds in Our Hip Pocket" 2003

K. Turner, "Why Some Public High Schools Are More Successful In Preventing Dropout: The Critical Role of School Size" (unpublished dissertation), Harvard University 1991

K. Turner (ed.) "Lesley College Assessment: An Evaluation" Technical Paper, Lesley College 1990

K. Turner (ed.) "On Our Watch: Ensuring a Future for Our Community Youth" Bentley College 1989

WORK CITED

R. Putnam, Bowling Alone: Collapse and Revival of American Community, Touchstone 2000

R. Rothman, Measuring Up: Standards, Assessments, and School Reform, Jossey-Bass 1995

G. Bracey, *Principal Magazine*, "Assessing the New Assessments" 1993

R. Rothman, *Ed Week*, "Testing Shifts from Memorization to Investigation in Littleton" 1992

**SELECTED
ADDRESSES****COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS**

October 19, 2012

56th Annual National Conference, Indianapolis, IN

"How the Growth Model and a School Performance Framework Change the Conversation"

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

November 3, 2009

National Assessment Policy Study – Expert Group, Washington, D.C.

"How can growth and common state assessments be used to measure teacher effectiveness"

ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE

2008

Penrose House, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Presenter with Senator Hank Brown, and DU President Dan Ritchie on "Prospects for P12 education"

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

2008

Broad Moor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado

"Courageous conversations on standards-based education: Embracing the fourth R, Reason"

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

2008

National Conference, Denver, Colorado

"Changing role of mathematics in the academic life of P20 students"

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES

2007

Annual Winter Leadership Conference, Denver, Colorado

Presenter with Lorrie Shepard, "Moving forward: Connecting schooling to college and career"

COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

2006

National Large Scale Assessment Conference, San Francisco, California

"Transforming data from accountability mandates into information that improves classroom practice"

NORTH CENTRAL ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION

2005

Annual National Conference, Chicago, Illinois

"Measuring student academic growth: Visual tools and models that promote innovation and creativity"

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

2004

Orange County Convention, Orlando, Florida

"NCLB: Using longitudinal analysis to gauge growth, close gaps and define adequate yearly progress"

FUND FOR COLORADO'S FUTURE

2003

Gates Room at the Public Library in Denver, Colorado

Presenter with Drs. Bob Linn, Glynn Ligon, Bill Sanders to accountability measurement methods team

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

2002

Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado

"Accrediting schools, gauging longitudinal growth, and closing achievement gaps"

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

2000

Press Box on the Air Force Academy Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Opening presenter District lead team, "Living the dream: Becoming more than we thought possible"

ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO EDUCATIONAL EVALUATORS

1999

Northglenn, Colorado

"William Sanders, accreditation and value-added assessment: Gauging longitudinal growth"

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

1999

Denver, Colorado

Keynote to national group of Rotarians on "Literacy, oracy and numeracy: Why, what, and how"

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION

1999

Denver, Colorado

"Acquiring English" and "From compliance to commitment: Partnership with Office for Civil Rights"

SELECTED ADDRESSES	ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO EDUCATIONAL EVALUATORS	1998
	Northern Colorado BOCES, Longmont, Colorado "Progress: What is it and how is it measured?"	
	ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO EDUCATIONAL EVALUATORS	1997
	Northern Colorado BOCES, Longmont, Colorado "Combining multiple forms of data to reach conclusions about student performance."	
	COLORADO COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS	1996
	Denver, Colorado "Using Internet-based multimedia assessment to gauge student math achievement."	
	UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY	1995
	Colorado Springs, Colorado (State assessment conference, host is Department of Education) "Assessment: What we think, know, and can prove."	
	UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER	1994
	Rochester, New York Keynote Address, 4th Annual Assessment Conference "Littleton's story: Lessons learned."	
	LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	1994
	Baton Rouge, Louisiana "Pushed or jumped: Why students drop out and what schools can do about it."	
AFFILIATIONS	UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS	1994
	Amherst, Massachusetts "Performance assessment: Mapping the domain."	
	Phi Delta Kappa	1982-2024
	Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	1986-2024
	American Association of School Administrators	1996-2024
	American Educational Research Association	1994-2024
EDUCATION	ED.D., ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING, AND POLICY	1991
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts	
	ED.M., ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION	1988
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts	
	M.A., CURRICULUM, ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPERVISION	1987
	University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado	
	B.S., EDUCATION	1979
	University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado	
AWARDS	DISSERTATION OF THE YEAR	1991
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts Recipient, Goldie-Anna trust award for outstanding education dissertation at Harvard University, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania (\$10,000 cash prize).	
	HEROLD HUNT FELLOWSHIP	1990
	Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts Recipient, award for research that informs educational theory and practice (\$2,500 cash prize).	