

EDUCATION POLICY BRIEFING SERIES

Sponsored by the office of Communications and Outreach

Please join colleagues at the U.S. Department of Education
for

Putting Middle Grades Students on the Graduation Path

An Education Policy Briefing

Thursday, May 12

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Barnard Auditorium

Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C.

Join us at the U.S. Department of Education for an education policy briefing and panel discussion moderated by **Greg Darnieder, senior adviser to the secretary of education on college access**. Panelists will discuss current research and practice, challenges for districts and schools, and instructional and structural strategies that work to improve achievement and encourage success in the middle grades.

Panelists include:

- **Robert Balfanz, research scientist, Center for the Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University**, and director of the Everyone Graduates Center, and codirector of the Talent Development Middle and High School, which works with more than 100 high-poverty secondary schools to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive whole schools reforms. Balfanz has published widely on secondary school reform, high school dropouts, early warning systems, and instructional interventions in high-poverty schools.

- **Deborah Kasak, executive director, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform**, an affiliation of prominent associations, foundations, researchers and practitioners united to speak in one voice about needed improvements in the middle grades (5-8). Its signature program is the Schools to Watch initiative and in August 2010, the National Forum was awarded a \$5 million federal grant under the Investing in Innovation (i3) competition to direct the work of The Schools to Watch: School Transformation Network, which will be doing intensive school reform work with 18 consortium schools.

- **John Miller, principal, Stonewall Middle School**, Manassas, Va., a school with a large ESL and high-poverty population. Under Miller's leadership, Stonewall has made significant gains in student achievement, which can be attributed to their emphasis on rigor, high expectations and parent and community engagement. Stonewall has an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and was recently identified as a School To Watch.

• **Tara Miniter, teacher, Stonewall Middle School**, whose longevity at the school has given her a firsthand view of its transformation over the last seven years.

To RSVP and be placed on the list to enter the building, please contact [Leah Raphael](#) by noon on Wednesday, May 10. You must bring a photo ID in order to enter the Department as a guest for the briefing.

The Department is located at 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., across Independence Avenue from the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Our building is bordered by 4th and 6th Streets, S.W., as well as C Street and Independence Avenue. You should enter via the Visitors' Entrance on C St., East end. There is metered parking near the building.

The nearest Metro station is L'Enfant Plaza. Exit at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue.