

Project

Title: *Leadership removed: Chronicling the repercussions of high-stakes accountability.*

Principle Investigator

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Abstract

The results of this project, which was focused on chronicling the stories of successful school leaders who were removed from their posts as a result of high-stakes accountability systems, exposed oppressive treatment of school leaders within the Texas high-stakes accountability system and suggest the nationally mandated accountability system may be producing similar results in other states. A report of these findings was published in the *Phi Delta Kappan*, a highly respected educational journal with an acceptance rate of less than five percent. Moreover, this project led to an additional study focused on the examination of how accountability systems may be affecting students. The researcher is currently conducting a mixed-methods study of the use of instructional time for test preparation. Preliminary results of a comparative analysis of the five highest and five lowest wealth districts in the state suggest students in low-wealth districts receive significantly less instructional time than their peers in more affluent districts. Based on these results, the study has been expanded to include a study of all school districts Texas.

In addition to focusing on data collection, this project afforded the researcher an opportunity to test a new generation of voice recognition software and digital recording technology to assist with transcribing qualitative research data. This technology has proven quite useful although it's full potential is still being explored.

Publications

McGhee, M. & Nelson, S. (2005). Sacrificing Leaders, villainizing leadership: How educational accountability policies are negatively impacting school leadership. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 86(5), 367-372.

Presentations

Nelson, S. & McGhee, M. (2004). *Time off task: How test preparation is siphoning instructional time for students of color and students of poverty*. Paper session presented at the annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration. Kansas City, MO.

Meno, L., Slater, C., McGhee, M., Nelson, S. (2004). *Texas accountability: Practitioners' perspectives*. Session presented at the Pursuit of High Achievement for Every Student: The Untold Texas Story conference sponsored by the Charles A. Dana Center in partnership with the National School Conference Institute. San Antonio, TX.

McKenzie, K., Nelson, S., Garza, E, & Simmons, J. (2004). *What does it take to prepare successful urban principals?* Conversation presented at the annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration. Kansas City, MO.

McGhee, M. & Nelson, S. (2003). *Sacrificing leaders, villainizing leadership: How educational accountability policies are negatively impacting school leadership*. Paper session presented at the annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration. Portland, OR

Current and Pending Support

Currently there are no additional support requests for this project.