



### Focus on the right things

Is your district focused on doing the right things to improve student achievement?

New research from McREL, a nonprofit education research and service organization, concludes that the key to effective district leadership is to develop clear, shared goals for using research to improve teaching and learning and to ensure that everyone — from the school board to classroom teachers and parents — works together to meet those goals.

Easier said than done? McREL can help.

### Research. Reality. Results.

McREL has 40 years of experience in helping districts from around the country translate rigorous research into real-world guidance and results in their schools and classrooms. We offer a wide array of practical, research-based workshops and consulting services for districts.



**Be clearer than you've ever been on your role as a superintendent or school board member**

*[McREL's Balanced Leadership] program gave me the insight on how to improve student achievement in low-performing schools. I can honestly say that I am a much stronger instructional leader because of the program."*

*- Dr. Rodney Shotwell, Superintendent, Rockingham County School District, North Carolina*

*"I can't say enough about the guidance McREL has given us. We rely on McREL and have never been disappointed."*

*- Bob Toso, Assistant Superintendent Jamestown (ND) Public Schools*



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McREL's

# LEADERSHIP SERVICES

for  
School Districts



Making a Difference



### Get “just what you need”

As a nonprofit education organization, we are as committed as you are to helping all children achieve. That’s why we tailor our solutions to meet the needs of your school leaders, teachers, and students, so you get “just what you need” — nothing more, nothing less.

Our superintendent and school board leadership sessions can be shortened to a half-day, combined to target your focus areas, or delivered as part of a leadership or staff retreat.

We also provide services through larger, multi-year, multi-level interventions, professional development consortia with several districts, or through online learning communities.

Contact us to learn more about how we can tailor our services to meet your needs. E-mail [info@mcrel.org](mailto:info@mcrel.org) or visit [mcrel.org/topics/Leadership](http://mcrel.org/topics/Leadership)



## 1-DAY SESSION:

### Learning from the Best

This session describes the findings from McREL’s study, *School District Leadership that Works*. You’ll learn how highly effective superintendents raise student achievement by

- Engaging in collaborative goal-setting
- Establishing non-negotiable goals for achievement and instruction
- Ensuring board alignment and support of district goals
- Closely monitoring and evaluating district goals
- Committing resources to support district goals
- Providing school leaders with “defined autonomy”

Whether you’re a superintendent, district staff member, or school board member, you’ll leave this initial professional development session with an understanding of the research on high-performing districts and the practical tools you need to sharpen and sustain the “right” focus in your district.

## 2-DAY SESSION:

### Making Connections, Getting Focused

This session expands on the one-day session by giving participants interactive opportunities to examine the critical connections among school boards, superintendents, and central office staff and how these stakeholders must work together to create a high-performing school district. In addition to sharing ideas and brainstorming solutions with experienced McREL consultants, participants learn specific ways they can support the optimal performance of their district.

## INTENSIVE LEADERSHIP RETREAT: CREATING A HIGH-PERFORMING DISTRICT

McREL can provide an intensive professional learning opportunity for district leadership teams based on our research on high-performing districts, schools, and classrooms. These intensive, interactive sessions, which are tailored to your district’s challenges and needs, provide proven, practical guidance for how your school board, superintendent, and district staff can work together to optimize school and student performance. Participants will leave with the knowledge and tools they need to support higher levels of student achievement in your district.

## CONSULTING SERVICES

Where are you now? Where do you need to be? McREL experts also conduct analyses, provide written reports, and advise districts on the viability of their strategic plans. We can

- Interview stakeholders to determine their level of understanding of district goals
- Identify possible impediments to achieving district goals
- Review related district documents
- Review student achievement data for a district-wide longitudinal view
- Summarize findings and observations with answers to your district’s critical questions
- Recommend actions to help you align your budget with your goals, close achievement gaps or reduce dropout rates