

“Closing the Achievement Gap: School Resources and Beyond”

SEDL Policy Forum 2004

Omni Downtown Austin Hotel

September 27-28, 2004

Featured Speakers

Richard Rothstein

B.A. Harvard



Richard Rothstein is a research associate at the Economic Policy Institute, visiting professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, and senior correspondent for *The American Prospect*. From 1999-2002, he was the national education columnist of *The New York Times*. Rothstein's recent publications include: *Class and Schools: Using Social, Economic and Educational Reform to Close the Black-White Achievement Gap*; *The Way We Were? Myths and Realities of America's Student Achievement*; *All Else Equal: Are Public and Private Schools Different?* and *Where's the Money Going? Changes in the Level and Composition of Education Spending*.

Dr. Karen L. Mapp

Ed. D. Harvard



Karen Mapp is the Deputy Superintendent for Family and Community Engagement at the Boston Public Schools and President of the Institute for Responsive Education. In her two positions she is responsible for overseeing the development of initiatives to enhance family and community involvement in schools, as well as national research focused on the impact of partnership on student achievement. Mapp's recent publications include: *Helping Students Graduate: A Strategic Approach to Dropout Prevention*; *Having Their Say: Parents Describe Why and How They are Engaged in Their Children's Learning*; and *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Learning*.

Dr. Shirley J. Neeley

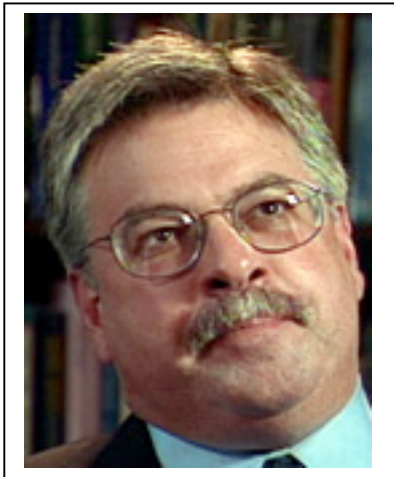
Ph.D. University of Houston



Shirley J. Neeley is the Texas commissioner of education and, as such, she serves as the head of the Texas Education Agency. She was a former elementary school teacher, assistant principal and principal, and district superintendent. Neeley focused on student performance accountability while overseeing the Galena Park Independent School District, a district with a student population that is 66 percent economically disadvantaged and 88 percent minority and Texas' largest exemplary district from 1995 until her appointment as commissioner of education in January 2004. Neeley was appointed to the Southern Regional Education Board and named Texas Association of School Boards' Superintendent of the Year in 2003.

Dr. Lawrence O. Picus

Ph.D. RAND Graduate School



Larry Picus is a professor in the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. He is the director of the Center for Research in Education Finance and a past president of the American Education Finance Association. Picus also serves as a senior adviser for SEDL's Regional Educational Laboratory policy work. His publications include *In Search of More Productive Schools: A Guide to Resource Allocation in Education*; *Developing Community Empowered Schools* and *School Finance: A Policy Perspective*; *Where Does the Money Go? Resource Allocation in Elementary and Secondary Schools*; *Setting Budget Priorities*; and *Using School Level Finance Data: Endless Opportunity or Bottomless Pit?*