

## **International School Leadership Development Network Study Summary**

We would like to collect information about the research studies being conducted as part of the International School Leadership Development Network. For each study you have conducted (or are conducting), please provide the following information:

1. Research team members' names and affiliations.

Jami Royal Berry, University of Georgia  
Sheryl Cowart Moss, Georgia State University  
Peryenthia Gore, Gwinnett County Public Schools

2. Which project area does your research study address?

Leadership for social justice

Leadership in high-need schools

3. Briefly describe the study setting, participants, data collection instruments, and dates of the investigation.

Data were collected from personal interviews with educators including school leaders, assistant school leaders, and teachers at two schools, an elementary school and a middle school, within a single identified cluster in a large urban school system in the Southeastern United States, utilizing thematic analysis through the lens of the High Needs Schools Leadership model. The schools were purposefully selected because they met the criteria for high needs schools related to socioeconomic status and cultural diversity, and because the elementary school fed the middle school, providing a more robust picture of the overall educational context for the students served. Data collected from the two schools included interviews with over fifteen educators and concurrent document analysis. The case was bound by time and setting with all data collection taking place in the schools highlighted during the 2016-2017 academic year.

4. List key findings of the study.

The data collection and concurrent archival document analysis revealed the importance of several key themes: 1) Engagement, 2) Core Values, 3) Developing People, 4) Inclusion, 5) Equity, and 6) Persistence.

5. Presentations and publications reporting the study.

Berry, J., Gore, P., Kahrs, J., and Moss, S. (April 2016). Leadership for High Needs Schools in One American School System. New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society (NZEALS) Bi-annual Conference, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Berry, J. and Bryant, K. (October 2017). Leadership in High-Needs, High Performing Schools: Success Stories from an Urban School District. Congreso Internacional de Organización de Instituciones Educativas, Lleida, Spain.

Berry, J., Moss, S., and Gore, P. (2019). Leadership in High-Needs, High Performing Schools: Success Stories from an Urban School District. In Murakami, E., Gurr, D. & Notman, R. (Eds.), *Educational Leadership, Culture, and Success in High-Need Schools* (pp. 131-148). Charlotte, North Carolina: Information Age Publishing.