

# edwards educational SERVICES

## News from Our EDquarters

Tailored to your schools. Transformative for your students.

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## Steve's Sound-Off

February 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Professional development is a great way for educators to continue to strengthen their practice. Please join us this Spring and Summer for what are sure to be two exciting opportunities to learn and grow with some of the finest educational leaders in the field!

All the best,  
Steve Edwards

## Upcoming Events

April 18, 2017:

*LEADING IN A CHANGING WORLD: THE STORY OF TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS TO EXCELLENCE*

Dr. Laurie Barron, National Principal of the Year and current superintendent, will be presenting in Lexington, KY. Dr. Barron believes that building relationships with students is key to a school's success and that changing a school's culture is essential to school improvement. Register [here!](#)

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EDWARDS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PRESENTS  
LEADING IN A CHANGING WORLD: THE STORY  
OF TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS TO  
EXCELLENCE

Featuring Dr. Laurie Barron  
April 18, 2017  
Lexington, KY  
For More Info: [ellie@edwardsedservices.com](mailto:ellie@edwardsedservices.com)

June 12-14, 2017:

*CHANGING THE PARADIGM: LEADING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW*

The West Virginia Cohort will be holding its 2017 Institute at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV. The Institute is open to all individuals who are looking to expand their expertise in leadership and engage in meaningful and productive conversations about how to improve teaching and learning in schools. The world is changing rapidly and we need to be ready to face the challenges to come, together. Register [here!](#)

## Freshman Academy

The Freshman Academy is a research-based program for ninth graders designed to ease the transition from middle to high school. A smooth transition increases the likelihood not only of graduating from high school, but also of graduating from college. Dr. Steve Edwards recently conducted a Freshman Academy training for RESA 2 in West Virginia with very positive feedback! 100% of participants felt they received the appropriate knowledge, framework, and inspiration to implement Freshman Academy concepts at their school. One participant even stated that this was "the most impactful RESA-sponsored Professional Development training" she had ever attended. It will be exciting to track these Freshman students as they progress!

### Indicators of Effective Programs

- Decreased absentee rates
- Steady or increased GPA
- Steady or increased participation in cocurricular activities
- Decreased truancy
- Fewer discipline incidents
- Positive mental health
- Goal-oriented students
- Involved parents

Graphic from:

Dedmond, R. (2006). Freshman transition programs: Long term and comprehensive. *Principals' Research Review*, 1(4). Reston, VA: National Association of Secondary School Principals.

## Grants and Resources

Grants can help fund collaborative projects with Edwards Ed at your school that you never thought possible. Our expert team of educators and grant writers can help you craft the perfect project proposal to sponsor leadership trainings, dropout initiatives, and professional development to transform your school.

- [Edutopia](#)
- [Federal Grants](#)
- [Foundation Center](#)

## Edwards Educational Services on LinkedIn: Let's Stay Social!

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To share your ideas on education, leadership, and current topics please contact:  
[info@edwardsedservices.com](mailto:info@edwardsedservices.com)

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All the best,

The ED Educational Team  
Edwards Educational Services, Inc.

