



## News from Our EDquarters

Tailored to your schools. Transformative for your students.

### Read About:

[Success Story of the Month](#)  
[Back to School Tips](#)  
[Professional Development](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Social Media Spot](#)

### Quick Links

[Edwards Educational Services, Inc](#)  
[The National Principals Academy](#)  
[More On Us](#)

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Steve's Sound-Off

August 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Your students are equipped to start school with new backpacks, sharpened pencils, and fresh erasers, but are YOU ready for the challenge of a new school year? Now is the perfect time to reset your intentions to focus on student achievement, building strong leadership teams, and cultivating trusting and open relationships with families and communities. All the best for a great, productive year!

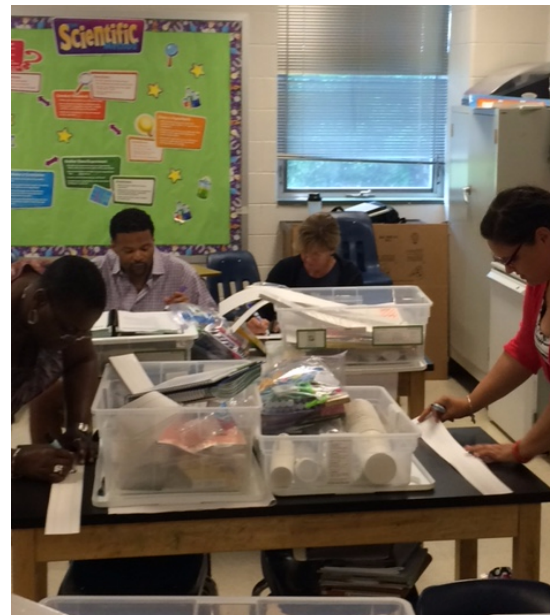
~Steve

## Success Story of the Month

Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia is experiencing the power of well-executed project-based learning!

Hammond's Summer Enrichment Program was an academic and social success. Prior to the official start of the program the teachers participated in a two-day professional development session. During the session teachers collaboratively developed lesson plans and assembled eco-habitats.

Using project-based learning, the assignments and activities allowed the students to take the lead in their learning. At the end of the program many of the students stated that they felt more confident about learning, and enjoyed the program, reports Academic Principal Dustin Barnes. Students and teachers participated in four field trips that aligned to the assignments they worked on during the program. Ultimately, both teachers and students were able to build relationships that will carry over to the upcoming school year.



## Back to School Tips for Great Year

Back to school is an exciting and challenging time! Here's some advice from the consultants at Edwards Ed to make it a great year.

1. "Administrators, schedule yourself to be with students. Always be out front when the kids arrive and be there when they leave. Ride buses. Play basketball at recess. Walk around and chat with kids during lunch. Get to their competitions outside of school. Play chess with them in your office or invite a group of kids to eat with you in your office- modify the stigma of the "Principal's Office". Ask them questions during your classroom walk-throughs. Read to them and have them read to you. Let them know that they are the most important part of your school life." --Debbie
2. "Smile and remember what it felt like to be a student on the first day of class! Meeting new teachers, getting adjusted to a new schedule, and finding somewhere to sit at lunch can be overwhelming for many students." --Michelle
3. "Our youngest is starting school this week. His teacher's welcome letter said that her room would be full of Love, Laughter, and Learning. Two days later, his teacher called our home when she heard that he had had his tonsils and adenoids removed. My wife and I were really impressed that she called especially since school had not even started and she has never met our son. At the end of the week, he received a get well soon card and a gift card from Dairy Queen from her. These kind gestures have taken away any fear or apprehensions we may have had about his first days of school. It is my hope that ALL students could be in a room that is full of Love, Laughter, and Learning. --Darrin

For more tips on how to make it a great year, please visit our [blog](#).

## Professional Development: Do I Need to Show Up?

Often I find educators asking themselves do I really need this professional development (PD)? Can someone just break down the presentation for me and give me the "lite" version so I don't have to attend. Most PD sessions

these days are not about a 'sit and get'. It is much more about what you put into the time, the learning, and then the doing.

The Proposed Amendments to Section 9101 (34) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 defines "professional development" as a means to comprehensive, sustained, and intensive approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement.

According to this definition there are deeper expectations given by allies and advocates of NCLB and input by Learning Forward.

(1) is aligned with rigorous state student academic achievement standards as well as related local educational agency and school improvement goals; (Using ISLLC Standards, Common Core or other state standards tied to school plans)

(2) is conducted among educators at the school and facilitated by well-prepared school principals and/or school-based professional development coaches, mentors, master teachers, or other teacher leaders; (Ensuring there is quality from professionals in the field, information is research based and has been implemented in other schools with fidelity and success)

(3) primarily occurs several times per week among established teams of teachers, principals, and other instructional staff members where the teams of educators engage in a continuous cycle of improvement that - (there is time to put the learning in place, it is evaluated and assessed to a continuous improvement plan).

Continue reading [here](#)



Photo Courtesy of: [Communityinnovations.org](http://Communityinnovations.org)

## National School Safety Conference

Kudos to Steve Edwards for his exciting keynote, 'Developing and Implementing Alternative Programs for At-Risk Youth' at the National School Safety Conference in Las Vegas! To have Steve speak at your conference or event, please email Michelle



## Events

Save the date! This November 5-7, the National Youth at Risk Conference arrives in Las Vegas, Nevada. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Identify specific instructional strategies to increase student engagement and achievement in school.
- Examine social issues that place youth at risk and identify steps to address these issues to increase student engagement and achievement in school.
- See Dr. Steven Edwards in action!

THOUGHT LEADER

STEVEN W. EDWARDS

President, EEO, Edwards  
Educational Services, Inc.,  
Alexandria, VA



SCHOOL CLIMATE / TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP Settings

Accommodating the unique needs in rural settings to improve a positive school climate, attendance, achievement, graduation, and college and career readiness for all students, especially high-poverty populations.

PRESENTATION: "Everyone Wants Reform, But No One Wants Change: The Demons Of Status Quo"

AND

[Learn Forward](#), December 5-9, 2-15 at the Gaylord National outside of Washington, D.C. Gain practical solutions to the challenges you face in your classroom, school, or district every day!



## Let's Be Social

Stay on top of all the news happening within Edwards Ed and beyond:

[Link up with us on our LinkedIn page!](#)

[We like you! Have you 'liked' us?](#)

[Tweet, tweet!](#)

[Pin it!](#)

---

**All the best,**

The ED Educational Team  
Edwards Educational Services, Inc.





[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to [info@edwardsedservices.com](mailto:info@edwardsedservices.com) by [info@edwardsedservices.com](mailto:info@edwardsedservices.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



Edwards Educational Services, Inc. | 325 N Henry Street | Alexandria | VA | 22314