

MICHAEL STREMBITSKY

Mike served Edmonton Public Schools for 38 years, with the last 22 of those years as Superintendent of Schools. Edmonton Public Schools today is a district with 210 schools, 90,000 students, and a staff of 8,000.

Mike initiated “school site decision-making” in seven schools in 1976. Based on the successful experience, he spearheaded the district’s restructuring of its highly centralized mode of operation to a school site model. This required a total change in administrative structures and practices and the development and installation of whole new support systems as well as a change strategy to discard the obsolete and redundant previous operation. This restructuring resulted in Edmonton becoming a lighthouse in public education, allocating the resources to all schools, the authority to plan and deploy the resources and be held accountable for results.

Forty years later, Edmonton continues to operate this organizational model with a high level of support from staff and community. The district received international acclaim with Times Magazine (U.S. edition) labelling Edmonton the most emulated and visited school district in North America.

In 1994 Mike was recruited by the National Center on Education and the Economy (Washington, D.C.) as Director of High Performance Management, assisting schools, districts and state departments of education across the United States in restructuring and installing management frameworks that address in a very concrete way such abstractions as democratization, governance, subsidiary and accountability.

In 1998 Mike and a colleague worked for a year in implementing similar concepts in the Pasadena School District in California. This was followed by several years of consulting to school districts across the United States.

In 2003 Mike worked in Hawaii assisting in educational reform efforts. During a seven month period, he worked extensively with legislators, community groups, administrators, teachers and the media in promoting the basic concepts of transparency, greater involvement of schools in decisions to promote higher student achievement and accountability of the schools for student results. The Hawaii legislature passed Bill 51, "An Act to Reinvent Education."

In 2004 Mike joined the Office of the Secretary for Education State of California, as Policy Advisor to the then Secretary Richard Riordan. This year long assignment culminated in legislation that provided for restructuring the state-to-district and district-to-school relationships for up to 20 school districts representing 400,000 students for a five-year term. Based on the five year experience, a determination would be made as to a state-wide rollout.

Prior to retirement, Mike served as a consultant in Nevada with both Clark and Washoe County School Districts with concentration on work in Clark County “Empowerment Schools”.

Internationally, Mike has consulted to the governments of Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Israel, England and has served as a consultant to the Department of Defence Schools in Washington, DC, Germany, Panama, and Japan.