



Paul Vallas, CEO

Paul G. Vallas was appointed in July of 2002 as Chief Executive Officer for the School District of Philadelphia. Mr. Vallas is implementing sweeping District-wide reforms in Philadelphia, duplicating many of the approaches that changed Chicago's Public School System from one of the worst in the nation to a nationally recognized model for education reform. Vallas' reforms are creating safer schools, better-trained teachers, a unified curriculum, more support for students with special needs and a fiscal plan that improves the financial health of the District. His approach to reforming the District is one of inclusion because parents, staff, community organizations, religious institutions and the City of Philadelphia all deserve a say in their schools.

Mr. Vallas served as the Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Public Schools from 1995 to 2001. During his tenure, Mr. Vallas transformed the nation's third largest school system from what was thought of as "the worst in the country" to "a model for the nation." Mr. Vallas initiated a broad series of educational reforms to reverse the system's persistent failure. He eliminated a projected four-year shortfall of \$1.3 billion within two years and balanced the system's budget each year thereafter. Mr. Vallas fully restored financial stability to the Chicago Public Schools, which earned thirteen bond rating upgrades within a six year period.

During his term, he also implemented an unprecedented capital improvement program by constructing 76 new buildings and renovating more than 500 existing buildings. The program produced a vastly improved learning and teaching environment for the school system. Mr. Vallas streamlined the system's administrative organization by eliminating 1,700 duplicative non-teaching positions and replacing inefficient operations with privately managed services. Mr. Vallas is also credited with ending social promotion, the reorganization of Chicago's high schools, and establishing the largest after-school and summer reading programs in the country. Between 1996 and 2000, student test scores improved by virtually every academic indicator, including six consecutive years of improved elementary reading scores.

Prior to serving as Chief Executive for Chicago's public schools, Mr. Vallas was budget director for the City of Chicago. In this role, Mr. Vallas closed the City's \$125 million budget gap and received the first unanimous city council vote for passage of a city budget in over 40 years. Mr. Vallas also served as revenue director for the City of Chicago from 1990 to 1993.

Mr. Vallas was Executive Director of the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission from 1985 to 1990, where he was responsible for reviewing, analyzing and assessing the legislative impact of state finances on state and local taxes. He also dealt with economic development issues.

Before joining the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission, Mr. Vallas served as a policy advisor to the Illinois State Senate. Mr. Vallas was the principal advisor to the Senate Elementary and Secondary Education and Appropriations Committees.