

CROSS & JOFTUS

Jean-Claude Brizard

5001 Massachusetts Ave NW | Washington, DC 20016 | 516-242-0560 Cell | jean-claude@edstrategies.net

Experience

Partner and Vice President, Cross & Joftus, LLC

2015-present

Lead two of the firm's practice areas: school and district transformation and CTE and workforce development.

- The school and district transformation practice area involves working in partnership with districts and their stakeholders to analyze and develop plans for reconfiguring core systems – instructional, human capital, finance and operations, data, and others – so that they work together to support the district's overarching goals.
- The CTE and workforce development practice area involves working with states, schools and districts to develop the core set of conditions needed for successfully implementing an education-to-career program – ensuring that programs are rigorous and integrating into programs and curricula non-academic, cognitive competencies that teach transferable knowledge and skills required for varied career and college options and marketability.

President, Upspring Education Group

2014-2015

Led UpSpring Education Group, a national network of highly experienced education practitioners and not-for-profit leaders supporting the strategic, instructional, and operational work of school superintendents, public charter leaders, and education organizations across the U.S. and abroad.

Senior Advisor, The College Board

2013- 2014

Senior Advisor to the strategy team and two Senior Vice-Presidents of the College Board to help develop and lead College Board initiatives to strengthen college and career preparation in the nation's middle and high schools as well as support the College Board's network of regional offices.

- Worked to create new policies, programs and services that support the academic preparation of all students who wish to pursue multiple career and college pathways.
- Built strong relationships with members of Congress and their staffs, U.S. Department of Education staff, State Departments of Education and education associations/organizations to expand the College Board's influence on college and career policy.
- Led outreach to governors, chief state school officers, and other state officials to understand and eventually influence state education policy.
- Published full-length article in September 2013 issue of Phi Delta Kappa magazine titled *Toward a Common Model of Career and Technical Education*. Article published as a special supplement to the magazine's Gallup Poll edition.

Consultant, Chicago Public Schools

2012

Facilitated the transition of a new Chief Executive and supported the Chair of the Chicago Board of Education.

Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools

2011-2012

Chief Executive of the nation's third-largest school system serving approximately 410,000 students in more than 670 schools with a budget of more than \$5 billion.

- Introduced a comprehensive change agenda across the Chicago Public Schools, including closing a significant budget gap of more than \$1.3B over two fiscal years while preserving core reforms and investing in classrooms.

- Developed a new framework for teaching, and the system saw record increases in student achievement and graduation rates and record growth on the ACT – an important college readiness benchmark.
- Led the District’s move to full adoption of the Common Core State Standards.
- Created a Blueprint for reform that will continue to serve as a roadmap for years to come.

Superintendent of Schools, Rochester City School District

2008-2011

Chief Executive of an urban school district serving approximately 33,000 students and 10,000 adult students. Lead a district-wide reform effort that changed the way the school system operated from the central office to the classroom. With a budget of nearly \$700 million, we were committed to making steady improvements in student performance with the goal of being recognized as one of the best urban school districts in the nation. Accomplishments include:

- Published a five-year strategic plan focusing on three main levers for meaningful reform – Human capital, a portfolio of great schools and the Rochester Curriculum (a revamped core curriculum aligned to standards with embedded criterion-referenced benchmark assessments).
- Raised achievement in Grades 3-8 on New York State Math Assessment. The percent meeting NYS standards went from 55% in 2007-08 to 63% in 2008-09.
- Increased the percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in all grades. Secondary schools showed the most dramatic gains, with grades 7 and 8 each increasing 10 percentage points for 2009.
- Decreased the percent of students scoring in Level 1 (the lowest achievement level in NYS) in all grades. The largest decreases in Level 1 were in grade 8 (9 percentage points fewer), grade 6 (6 percentage points fewer), and grades 5 and 7 (5 percentage points fewer) for 2009.
- Implemented an aggressive secondary school reform agenda where more than 50% of the district’s secondary schools have been reconstituted.
- Raised on-time graduation rates for students who started 9th Grade in 2002, 2003, and 2004 from a low of 39% to 52%.
- Improved business processes, resulting in department savings of over \$51M.

Senior Executive for Policy and Sustainability, New York City Department of Education

2007

Coordinated the Policy and Sustainability team within the Office of Portfolio Development. Tasked primarily with ensuring the sustainability of the portfolio of schools created under the Bloomberg/Klein administration through relevant policy, productive partnerships and data-informed support.

- Managed a staff of over 25 with budget responsibility in excess of \$20 million, in addition to working with funder-supported Children First projects.
- Led policy development in regards to portfolio programs (i.e., small schools, career and technical education, small learning communities, gifted and talented, Pre-K), including budget, enrollment, human resources, accountability, Knowledge Management, English Language Learners and Special Education.
- Monitored student achievement in relevant portfolio accountability metrics, identified underperforming schools in portfolio, and worked with relevant DOE offices to plan/implement interventions.
- Managed a cross-functional team of pedagogic and operational/organizational staff to accomplish policy and sustainability goals.
- Maintained feedback loops with schools and regional centers to identify systemic policy challenges and correct.
- Worked with all stakeholders, including the Mayor’s office and the United Federation of Teachers, to create a strategic plan for career and technical education.

Regional Superintendent – Region 6, New York City Department of Education

2006-2007

Responsible for the leadership of approximately 100 K-12 schools and 100,000 students in three geographic

New York City districts (17, 18 and 22). The highly diverse student body was 71% African American, 10% Hispanic, 12% White, and 7% Asian and others; 61% were economically disadvantaged.

- One year gains in mathematics for grades 3-8 students meeting or exceeding standards reached 60.5%, an increase of 7.8%. One-year gains in literacy for students meeting or exceeding standards (including English Language Learners) reached 49.6%, an increase of 1.3%. Worked to remove two of three schools listed as “persistently dangerous” by the state education department.
- Closed two under-performing high schools and two middle schools. Opened 11 new schools, a GED plus program and a PM program for high school students at risk of dropping out of high school.
- Managed a staff of over 200 with budget responsibility in excess of \$17 million, in addition to supervision of school-level budgets.
- Responsible for the intellectual, emotional and physical development of students within the geographic regional district and contributed to the goal-setting and agenda for all schools in New York City. Sat as cabinet member of the Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and helped set goals and direction for instructional and operational needs of the New York City school system.

Executive Director for Secondary Schools, New York City Department of Education

2005-2006

Reported directly to the Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning. Coordinated the secondary school team (approximately 60 people), including middle schools, secondary intervention, Office of Small Learning Communities, college programs, high school data management and Career and Technical Education (CTE). Managed a budget in excess of \$60 million (including more than \$32 million in state and federal grants).

- The Office of Secondary Schools helped to define NYC’s Secondary School Reform Agenda; implemented a combined USDOE and Bill and Melinda Gates grant for small learning communities in large high schools; provided leadership in the creation of small rigorous middle and high schools (232 new small schools in 4 years).
- Implemented a citywide post-secondary initiative by greatly expanding the number of early college and advanced placement courses in NYC (especially in schools that enroll traditionally underserved populations). Leveraged the Mayor’s office to offer the PSAT for 109,000 10th grade students, which informed the AP potential of students; more than doubled the number of schools offering AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination).
- Restructured NYC’s Career and Technical Education to offer academically rigorous, industry-relevant sequences of courses that met industry and State certification and graduation requirements. Offering courses in 68 career pathways located in 171 secondary schools across the five boroughs, CTE programs reflect exemplary practices in academic and technical integration, work-based learning, professional development for teachers, career pathways and college preparation programs for students.

Local Instructional Superintendent – Region 8, New York City Department of Education

2003-2005

Provided leadership to eleven high school principals, serving approximately 9,000 students.

- Responsible for high school redesign and restructuring in Region 8
- Instrumental in helping to open four new small high schools
- Worked with the Regional Superintendent to develop an overarching philosophy for the creation of small schools within the region
- High schools in this network consistently outperformed other high schools in the region.

Principal, George Westinghouse High School, Brooklyn, New York

1999-2003

Responsible for supervising the operations and instructional program in a school of 1,300 students with a budget of \$6 million.

- Authored a “whole school” reform plan in collaboration with a select team of university and industry experts and staff. The story of the school was featured in Chief Information Officer (CIO) magazine and on PBS television.
- Increased scores on English Regents examination by over 40% and scores on Mathematics Regents

examination by over 30%.

- Assisted the school in securing \$1.2 million in reform grants from the United States Department of Education.

**Assistant Principal Organization/Administration, George Westinghouse High School
Brooklyn, New York** 1994-1999

Responsible for an annual budget of over \$5 million, recruitment of new staff, ordering of equipment/supplies and day-to-day operation of school.

**Physics Teacher, George Westinghouse High School
Brooklyn, New York** 1990-1994

Students consistently scored well on NYS Regents examination. Participated in a round table discussion on *New Waves in the Teaching of Physics* at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, sponsored by the office of Academic Affairs, The City University of New York.

**Adjunct Lecturer of Physics, New York City College of Technology
Brooklyn, New York** 1992-1996

Conducted workshops on "*Hands-on Computer-Based Applied Physics Laboratory Activities*," sponsored by the Case Institute for Research and Development of the Graduate School and University Center, The City University of New York.

**Science Teacher, Enrico Fermi Junior High School
Brooklyn, New York** 1986-1990

Education and Certifications

**Fellow, Pahara - Aspen Institute Global Leadership Network
Fellow, The Broad Center**

**M.S. Ed., School Administration and Supervision, The City University of New York – City College of
New York, New York, New York** 1995

M.S. Ed., Science Education, The City University of New York - Queens College, Queens, New York 1990

B.A., Chemistry, The City University of New York - Queens College, Queens, New York 1985

Professional and Community Affiliations

Trustee, Chicago Field Museum of Natural History
Board Member, Teach for America DC Region
Board Member, Voice Ideas Vision Action (VIVA) Teachers
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary – Flotilla 12-7
Board Member, Americans Promoting Study Abroad (APSA)
Founding Board Member, Anseye Pou Ayiti (Teach for Haiti/Teach for All)
Board Member, Pathway in Education National Advisory Board
Former Executive Committee Member, American Association of School Administrators

Selected Honors and Awards

Recognition for the support of Career and Technical Education in NYC – United Federation of Teachers 2006
The Frances Blumenthal Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Educational Administration 1995
Teacher of the Year (twice), Brooklyn and Staten Island High Schools 1993, 1995
Newsmaker of the Year, The Defender Newspaper, Chicago, IL 2012