

# Aim High, Achieve More: How to Transform Urban Schools Through Fearless Leadership

Yvette Jackson, Veronica McDermott

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Many urban educators live in fear: of their schools being labeled failures, of increasingly punitive sanctions, of loss of respect and livelihood. This fear pervades the entire school community, affecting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of its members.

The authors of this guide to transformation in urban schools are convinced that the key ingredient for school renewal is fearless leadership. Fearless leaders work in schools under-resourced and overburdened and serve disproportionately large numbers of children who live in poverty and face racism daily. They are ordinary educators committed to proving that demographics need not be destiny.

This inspirational yet practical book will help you bridge the divide that separates urban students from their birthright of a high-quality education. You will learn how to

- \* Adopt a leadership approach, consisting of affirmation, inspiration, and mediation (AIM), that will transform your school into a flourishing learning community.
- \* Build a leadership team of important stakeholders--including students--that is committed to improvement.
- \* Tap into the resources that already exist in your school and jettison institutional arrangements that prevent your school from becoming an enriching and creative community.
- \* Create supports that enable teachers to nurture their students' potential to meet high standards and become self-actualized learners.

Each chapter closes with reflections and activities that will help your leadership team produce its own roadmap for change.

Succeeding in the tough landscape of urban schools requires more than just passion and a sense of urgency; it requires real skills. Aim High, Achieve More provides insights gleaned from real-world experiences that will enable you to create a successful, vibrant learning environment.



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