



# HARRISON PETERS

Co-Founder & CEO

*Men of Color in Educational Leadership*

Harrison Peters is the CEO/Co-founder of Men of Color in Educational Leadership (MCEL) and former State Turnaround Superintendent of Providence Public Schools Department. His drive for education was sparked by one 10th-grade teacher who said he was not college material and another who said, "I love you, I believe in you, and I refuse to allow you to fail." He learned then that what we tell our children absolutely matters.

Harrison grew up in Pensacola, Florida. He was raised by his grandmother, who had only a 2nd-grade education. As a result, he was completely dependent upon caring teachers to help him reach his academic potential. That's why, for over two decades, Harrison has been fighting for children across the country.

He began his career as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in Apopka, Florida. Since that formative time in the classroom, he served in many leadership roles, including Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Schools, and Superintendent. His work in large complex school districts – including Charlotte Mecklenburg, Chicago, Houston, Hillsborough County (Tampa), and Providence – afforded him the opportunities and challenges of transforming some of the toughest schools in the country. In Providence, the state committed to a comprehensive effort to transform the city's schools.

As Deputy Superintendent-Chief of Schools for Hillsborough County Schools, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the district's 250 schools that educate 220,000 students. His team of eight area superintendents, 850 administrators, and 15,000 teachers achieved record-breaking graduation rates, industry certifications, and college scholarships, as well as a significant reduction in the student achievement gap.

While serving as Chief of Schools on the Southside of Chicago, Harrison was credited with significantly increasing ACT scores, 3rd-grade reading, math proficiency, and graduation rates. As a Chief School Officer in Houston, he was part of the leadership team that led a majority vote in favor of a \$1.9 billion bond, the largest in the state's history. While in Houston, he was awarded the "Outstanding Educator" award by Zeta Tau Lambda. A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Harrison served on the USS Cleveland.

Harrison earned a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida in Elementary Education. He earned a master's degree in Education Leadership from Nova South Eastern University and a Specialist's Degree in School Transformation from the University of South Florida. Harrison and his wife, Tarneisha, have two sons, Devin and Kenneth. With student success as his "north star," Harrison is convinced that within every child lies an endless potential that, when given the right support, can produce extraordinary results.