

Representative Projects

- ❑ (Multiple projects) Leaders of a **state department of education** aiming to integrate the state's heavily segregated schools and school districts asked CPRL to design and coordinate the most comprehensive state-led effort in the nation to develop and implement district-level integration plans. CPRL constructed and helped lead the training of and coached teams of school district staff to (i) devise constitutionally valid system-wide school integration plans, (ii) empower a broad set of public stakeholders to help design and test the plans, and (iii) develop and codify administrative procedures for rapidly improving the plans based on early implementation results.
- ❑ In three separate projects, a **prominent civil rights organization**, a **national non-profit supporting creation of high-quality public schools**, and a **philanthropic foundation** engaged CPRL to design novel legal theories for interpreting federal and state constitutions to require state and local schools systems to track, innovate solutions to, and gradually diminish racial, ethnic, and other disparities in educational outcomes and discrepancies between state educational standards and students' actual results. CPRL teams conducted legal research, drafted strategy memoranda and legal documents, and conducted statistical analysis to assist the clients in deciding whether to pursue or fund litigation against which states and districts.
- ❑ In support of efforts to turnaround a **major metropolitan school district's** low-performing schools, CPRL explored the district's authority under federal and state law and regulations to design, then codified in local administrative rules and practices, (i) a comprehensive system of qualitative and quantitative measures of school effectiveness to provide schools with actionable improvement data and increase public accountability, and (ii) a process for annually identifying schools for improvement steps and restructuring, consistent with federal and state regulations.
- ❑ (Multiple projects) An **innovative southern state department of education** engaged CPRL to evaluate the legality and effectiveness and recommend improvements of the some of the broadest state-level initiatives in the nation to (1) provide publicly funded, privately provided, early childhood education to all children in poverty; (2) encourage districts to adopt and support them in implementing high-quality instructional materials and aligned professional learning for teachers; and (3) offer distance-learning options to rural and other public school children statewide who lack access to rigorous academic programming.
- ❑ (Multiple projects) Following state takeover of two poorly performing school districts and in support of two successful school district turnaround efforts, CPRL provided **district leadership** with legal and policy recommendations for redesigning district schools, reorganizing the workforce, and implementing a unified system of enrollment by choice.