

Jonathan Williams Bio

Johnathan Williams is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Accelerated Schools. Under his leadership, The Accelerated Schools—in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), California State University, Los Angeles, along with foundations and corporate supporters—completed construction of a \$50-million dollar comprehensive pre-K—12th grade school complex in 2003. This model public/private partnership charter school dramatically changed educational opportunities for the South Central Los Angeles community and served as a catalyst for the growth of charter schools regionally and nationally. In 1994, The Accelerated School was distinguished as the first charter school in South Central Los Angeles, and in 2001 was the first charter school in California to be recognized by TIME Magazine as “Elementary School of the Year.”

The Accelerated Schools have since served as a community service facility including an on-site health clinic and fitness center. Mr. Williams has also served as a regional and national spokesperson for the charter schools movement and received commendations from former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Mr. Williams is also a founding board member of several state and national support organizations including the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS). He was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California State Board of Education (2004-2011), and was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the LA City Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners and to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission in 2011. Mr. Williams also currently serves on the National Advisory Board for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and is a lifetime member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

