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Superintendent Ratings of Academic Preparation

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Superintendent Ratings of Academic Preparation

Groups seeking to rescind or weaken state licensing requirements to be a superintendent have disparaged academic studies in administration as an inconsequential requirement. Their claim has rarely been supported by empirical evidence.

Findings from the last three AASA-sponsored decennial studies (1992, 2000, and 2011) of the superintendency suggest policymakers and members of the profession should be cautious about radically altering licensing requirements. A high percentage (ranging from 74 percent in 1992 to 79 percent in 2011) rated their university-based academic preparation as being excellent or good.

Ratings did not appear to be influenced significantly by district enrollment, level of experience in the superintendency or gender. Nevertheless, the percentage of excellent ratings was slightly higher in all three of these categories than it was in the overall study population.

SOURCE OF DATA: "THE AMERICAN SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: 2010 DECENNIAL STUDY" (2011) PUBLISHED BY ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD EDUCATION AND COSPONSORED BY AASA AND PEARSON. ANALYSIS BY THEODORE J. KOWALESKI, STUDY LEAD AUTHOR AND PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON.