

Jeffery L. McDaniels, J.D. - Chief of Staff

Jeffery L. McDaniels, J.D., joined the Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD) as **Chief of Staff** in August 2009.

McDaniels comes to Kansas City with a strong background in education, labor relations and community engagement.

McDaniels' professional foundation was formed during a six-year tenure with the United States Army Reserve during Desert Storm, where he provided direct care to non-critical patients at Martin Army Hospital at Fort Benning, Ga., and Tuskegee Veteran Affairs Hospital in Tuskegee, Ala. During the same period, he gained critical experience in organizational management as a campaign coordinator and manager for a variety of elected positions including attorney general, board of education, governor, and state senate.

Acting upon a desire to help others, McDaniels returned to his alma mater, Alabama State University, in 1995 as an admissions counselor, where he played a leading role in a period of increased student enrollment. During his three-year tenure he was selected by the school's Vice President of Academic Affairs to serve as accreditation liaison related to the establishment of the School of Allied Health.

McDaniels' labor relations background was built during a nine-year tenure with the Alabama Education Association that began in 1998. He provided advocacy and legal assistance to union members, as well as drawing on his organizational skills to lead local, state and national campaigns for pro-education legislation. He successfully lobbied the city of Birmingham, Ala., for a \$6.5 million package to support a school district financial recovery plan.

McDaniels advanced to the National Education Association in October 2006 as an organizational specialist, where his duties included project management and organizational development for state affiliates.

He took that experience to the Birmingham (Ala.) Regional Chamber of Commerce in June 2007, where he served as director of public policy. In that post he developed numerous contacts while acting as a lobbyist for pro-business legislation. McDaniels used extensive polling data to build awareness of positive business legislation within Birmingham's urban core. He also lobbied nationally through media appearances on NPR to discuss regional transportation.

Most recently McDaniels served as executive director of human resources with the Birmingham City Schools, Alabama's fourth-largest school district. There he reduced workers compensation claims by nearly 30 percent. He also led efforts to bring uniformity and effectiveness to employee background checks and substance abuse issues, tackled the district's efforts to address teacher certification concerns, and coordinated a management training program that reduced wage and hour lawsuits.

McDaniels was at the forefront of efforts to bring fair wages to Birmingham school employees at a time when more than 70 support workers were earning only \$7,400 annually. Through his efforts, wages increased by nearly a third for that group.

McDaniels has an undergraduate degree from Alabama State University, a master's degree in public administration from Auburn University and a juris doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law. He will be pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership.