

## Coaching/Mentoring Testimonials



★ Dr Ed Cora is a dedicated coach. He listens, is direct with feedback, and holds his mentees to high expectations. He makes himself available professionally and on a personal level. He was a great coach as I prepared to compete for the Superintendency and into my first year on the job!

■ ***Dr. Dani Portillo, Superintendent  
Roosevelt School District 66, Arizona***

★ I am writing to share my gratitude for the coaching and mentoring Dr. Ed Cora extended to me during and long after my participation in the ALAS Superintendent's Leadership Academy. Dr. Cora provided an array of resources, from mock interviews to scenario-based questions, ensuring I was well-prepared for the interview process. He spent a significant amount of personal time working with me, and his expertise, and personalized approach were instrumental to my success.

■ ***Robin Desmond, Superintendent  
Leominster Public Schools, Massachusetts***

★ I have great admiration for Dr. Ed Cora, whose leadership as a Superintendent was transformative. Dr. Cora consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to educational excellence and equity, significantly improving student outcomes and fostering an inclusive school culture. In addition, as a former Board member of the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA), Dr. Cora brought invaluable experience and a collaborative spirit, significantly advancing the organization's mission and initiatives. Dr. Cora's exceptional mentorship, guidance, and support have been invaluable in my professional growth and development.

■ ***Dr. Ivan Chaidez, Superintendent  
Oak Grove School District, California and  
CALSA Past President***

★ Ed Cora, Ed.D., is an experienced Superintendent who has consistently provided invaluable guidance and expertise on complex topics. A master at developing relationships and navigating politically sensitive situations, Ed excels at bringing talented individuals together to foster professional growth. His collaborative approach and leadership skills make him an exceptional asset to any educational institution. Ed Cora is who I call when I am in need.

■ ***Dr. Damon Wright, Superintendent  
Santa Clara Unified School District, California***

★ My experience working with Dr. Ed Cora has been truly exceptional. Dr. Cora is a dedicated and highly respected educational leader who genuinely cares about identifying, mentoring, and developing individuals to best serve the needs of school communities. His commitment to educational excellence and leadership development has been evident in every interaction I have had with him.

What sets Dr. Cora apart is his consistent accessibility and unwavering support. Whether in person, through Zoom, or by phone, he is always available to provide thoughtful guidance, ask insightful questions, and offer sound professional advice. His ability to listen carefully, provide perspective, and support effective decision-making has been invaluable to me in my role as Superintendent.

The coaching, mentorship, and encouragement I have received from Dr. Cora, both professionally and personally, have had a profound impact on my growth as an educational leader. His guidance has strengthened my ability to serve students, families, staff, and the broader school community with confidence, compassion, and purpose.

I am deeply grateful for Dr. Cora's leadership, integrity, and continued support, and I would highly recommend him to any educational organization or leader seeking outstanding mentorship and professional guidance.

■ ***Dr. Adam Bailey, Superintendent  
Buellton Union School District, California***

★ Ed has been an incredible asset to me professionally for numerous years. He's also been a tremendous friend who has always been kind and honest with me. He's trustworthy and someone I can rely on as a thought partner.

■ ***Dr. Constantino Aguilar, Superintendent  
Riverbank Unified School District, California***

★ I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the invaluable coaching support Dr. Ed Cora provided during and after the ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy. His guidance and insights were instrumental as I prepared for and participated in the superintendent interviews.

Specifically, I found our sessions on strategic communication and interview techniques to be particularly beneficial. Dr. Cora's advice on how to effectively articulate my vision and leadership style greatly improved my confidence. Additionally, the mock interview practice we conducted helped me refine my responses and feel more prepared for the actual interviews.

Dr. Cora's support has been a key factor in my professional growth, and I am truly grateful for his time and expertise.

■ ***Dr. Evelyn Nuñez, CEO/ Superintendent  
Esperanza Academy, Philadelphia, PA***

★ Dr. Ed Cora has been an exceptional mentor to me on my journey to becoming a superintendent. His expertise and insightful guidance have been instrumental in my professional growth and development. Ed has also been a source of inspiration and motivation. I am profoundly grateful for his guidance and mentorship. I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Ed Cora to any aspiring educational leader seeking a truly outstanding coach and mentor.

■ ***Dr. Annie Azarloza, Superintendent of Schools  
Rochester School District, New Hampshire***

★ Dr. Ed Cora is an exceptional mentor and executive coach, Dr. Cora has been my mentor for the past few years, during which time I have benefitted immensely from his extensive experience and profound wisdom in the field of public education.

One of Dr. Cora's most remarkable qualities is his ability to share his experiences in a way that elicits deep reflection and thought in my own practice. Dr. Cora's approach is not just about imparting knowledge; it's about guiding me to find my own path and strengthening my ability to show up as my true self in every professional endeavor.

■ ***Dr. Faviola Cantu, Chief Academic Officer  
Aldine Independent School District  
Houston, TX***

★ Working with Dr. Ed Cora has had a tremendous impact on my growth as an educational leader. As I have pursued my goal of becoming an assistant superintendent, his wisdom, experience, and practical guidance have helped me strengthen my leadership skills and navigate new challenges with confidence. His encouragement, professionalism, and genuine commitment to developing future leaders have made a lasting difference in my career. I sincerely appreciate the time and dedication he has invested in my success, and I highly recommend Dr. Ed Cora to anyone seeking an experienced, knowledgeable, and inspiring leadership mentor.

■ **Dr. Ingrid H. Lin**  
***Assistant Superintendent of Education Services***  
***Lancaster School District***

★ Ed's coaching and support were invaluable in my job search process. The interview strategies, practice, and feedback he provided enabled me to highlight my accomplishments, convey my values regardless of the question, and feel confident in any situation. I encourage anyone seeking to move forward in their careers to consult with Ed.

■ **Dr. Vanessa Landesfeind,**  
***Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources***  
***Monrovia Unified School District, California***

★ Ed has been my mentor for over 25 years. I was fortunate enough to have Ed as my principal during my first year of teaching and as an assistant principal as well.

When I became a principal, Ed had moved out of the district but met with me on a regular basis to guide me through a number of difficult situations I faced as a site principal. In my roles in both site and district leadership, I have continued to reach out to Ed for guidance. Ed is like family and no matter how busy he is, he will take time out to help me with any support I need.

■ **Dr. Brian Zimmerman,**  
***Principal, Avenal Elementary School***  
***Reef-Sunset Unified School District, California***

★ Dr. Ed Cora has been incredibly supportive in his coaching and mentoring, providing excellent insight. For example, his guidance has helped me recognize and value my skill set and experience. He is well-versed in leadership, and his integrity and care for others are unparalleled. I highly recommend him.

■ **Dr. Delphina JOYce Avila, Messenger of JOY™**  
***President, JOY ~ Journey Options YouChoose™***  
***Author | Speaker | Entrepreneur, Arizona***

★ Working with Dr. Cora was a game-changer for my leadership journey. He is incredibly professional and knowledgeable, but it's his genuine encouragement that sets him apart.

Thanks to his realistic mock interviews and strategic, thoughtful advice, I felt my confidence and effectiveness grow throughout the entire process.

Beyond just the expert guidance, Dr. Cora truly invested in my success, checking in regularly and offering support when I needed it most. He balances high-level coaching with a personal touch, making him an invaluable mentor for any educational leader.

■ **Heather Allen, Ed.D., Principal**  
**M.L. Tunnell Elementary School**  
**Santa Maria-Bonita School District**

★ Before I met Dr. Cora, I had already participated in some interviews. I had the experience, knowledge, and systems needed to lead elementary schools, but I struggled to communicate them with precision and depth.

When I reached out to Dr. Cora, he was a breath of fresh air. He was motivating, enthusiastic, and incredibly knowledgeable. Dr. Cora helped me understand that it was truly about being myself while carrying the confidence and mindset of "I can do it." He provided tips, support, and guidance as I prepared for the next interview. Alas, I achieved a triumph: I landed my first principal position!

■ **Pamela Dao**  
**Principal, Hillcrest Elementary**  
**Garvey School District**