

Akisha Osei Sarfo, Ph.D.



Dr. Akisha Osei Sarfo is the Director of Research at the Council of the Great City Schools, where she oversees the Council's research initiatives. In this role, she facilitates collaboration among district research leaders while leading the development of innovative research, resources, and data tools for member districts. A recognized expert in program evaluation, experimental and quasi-experimental research design, educational equity, teacher quality, and school accountability, Dr. Sarfo provides critical guidance and support for research and data use within Council districts.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Sarfo served as Chief Performance Officer for Guilford County Schools, where she led the district's Accountability, Research, and Planning division, earning Harvard University's Excellence in Education Data award. Her professional experience also includes roles at Bellwether Education Partners, the University of Delaware, and other state, federal and non-profit organizations. She was also a Harvard Strategic Data Project fellow. Dr. Sarfo holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in educational research methods from the University of Michigan, as well as a Ph.D. in Education Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics from the University of Delaware. Additionally, she is an AERA Dissertation Fellow.