



KEVIN P. CHAVOUS

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Board Chair of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

Kevin P. Chavous was sworn in as the Board Chair of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) during the organization's tenth anniversary celebration, Symposium 2010, in Milwaukee, Wis.

Chavous was elected the chair at the Board's winter 2009 meeting. He succeeds Dr. Howard L. Fuller, one of the organization's founders and chair since 2000.

Chavous is a noted attorney, author and national school reform leader. As a former member of the Council of the District of Columbia and Chair of the Council's Education Committee, he was at the forefront of promoting change within the District public school system. His efforts led to more than 500 million new dollars being made available to educate children in DC.

A leading national advocate for school choice, Chavous helped to shepherd the charter school movement into the nation's capital. Under his education committee chairmanship, the DC charter school movement became the most prolific charter school jurisdiction in the country, with over 20% of DC's public school children attending charter schools. In addition, he assisted in shaping the District's three sector education partnership with the federal government. That partnership led to fifty million new federal dollars for DC public schools, DC charter schools and it funded the first federal scholarship program to allow 2,000 low income children to attend private schools.

Chavous also led the team that worked with Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal that advocated for Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program in New Orleans. As a result of that legislation, nearly 1,000 students are now attending private schools of their choice in the New Orleans parish area. An early supporter of President Barack Obama, Chavous served as a member on the Education Policy Committee of the Obama Presidential Campaign.

Chavous is a partner at the law firm, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP and he is also an accomplished author, having published *Serving Our Children: Charter Schools and the Reform of American Public Education*. He is involved with many education reform groups including the Center for Education Reform, where he serves as a Distinguished Fellow. He also is a Co-founder and Chair of Democrats for Education Reform.

Chavous was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from Wabash College, where he was an NCAA All-American in basketball. He also graduated from the Howard University School of Law, where he was president of his graduating class. He lives in Washington, DC.