

***RETIREED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)  
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013.  
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich, CT.***

***DR. WILLIAM MCKERSIE, SUP'T. OF SCHOOLS***

***WHY U.S. EDUCATION HAS FALLEN BEHIND THE REST OF  
THE WORLD; LESSONS TO BE LEARNED***



There is an ongoing sense of malaise about the state of U.S. education. Every day, newspapers are filled with discussion about charter schools, Common Core, high-stakes testing, technological literacy, achievement gaps, and teacher evaluation. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a person could obtain a job in manufacturing even without a high school diploma. Today, a two-year degree from a community college likely will only qualify for a low-skill job at minimum wage. Informing the policy dialogue are the recent availability of international statistics comparing United States and foreign students on standardized tests. Not so long ago, it was generally accepted that the United States had the best elementary and secondary educational system in the world. Today, on one standardized comparison, the United States ranks 24<sup>th</sup> out of 34 developed countries in mathematics literacy and eleventh in reading literacy. With countries as diverse as Finland and Singapore surpassing the United States, best practice would not be to complain and criticize, but to engage in a critical discussion of why the United States has fallen behind and, more importantly, what are the lessons to be learned from other countries.

The RMA is fortunate to have Dr. McKersie, an educator with broad experience in diverse educational environments, to offer his insights and lead us in a discussion on the subject. Now in his second year as Greenwich Superintendent of Schools, Dr. McKersie came to Greenwich from Boston, where he was Associate Superintendent for Academic Excellence for the Archdiocese of Boston and led the early adoption of the Common Core. Previously he has been: Associate Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Senior Program Officer of the Cleveland Foundation, Project Director of the Small Schools Initiative for the Cleveland Heights Public Schools (Gates Foundation funded), Senior Program Officer for the Joyce Foundation, and faculty member at Northfield Mount Hermon School. He lives in Greenwich with his wife Katherine, a Connecticut native, and their six-year old daughter who attends Cos Cob School; his two sons live in Boston.

**Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.**