

Obama Picks Arne Duncan for Education Post

By [Sam Dillon](#)



Arne Duncan (Photo: Charles Bennett/Associated Press)

President-elect Barack Obama will name [Arne Duncan](#), the superintendent of schools in Chicago, to be his Secretary of Education, a senior Democratic official and a second person close to the decision said.

[Mr. Duncan](#) is a Harvard graduate whose friendship with Mr. Obama began [on the basketball court](#) and flowered into frequent discussions of education policy.

He has seven years' experience as chief executive of the Chicago Public Schools, the nation's third-largest school district, where he has earned a solid reputation for confronting pressing issues in public education, like how to raise teacher quality, how to transform weak schools and when to shutter those that are irredeemably failing.

Word of the selection comes as Mr. Obama's transition team said Monday that he would make an important announcement on Tuesday morning at the Dodge Renaissance Academy, an elementary school that Mr. Duncan and Mr. Obama visited together in October 2005.

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