A research project such as this is never accomplished without the collaboration and cooperation of many people and organizations. We would like to thank New American Schools (NAS), The Ford Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and another donor for their support of our research. We are also grateful to the teachers and principals in the schools who gave of their time to respond to our questions, the staff in districts and states who helped us piece together relevant data, and the design teams who clarified issues along the way. All played a crucial role in providing information we needed to better understand what kinds of schools the NAS designs are working with, and we appreciate their efforts and their dedication to improving the capacity of schools, the professional development of teachers, and the well-being of students.

We are thankful to the members of the Research Advisory Panel (funded by The Annenberg Foundation) who provide critical guidance to RAND’s research on NAS: Barbara Cervone, Paul Hill, Janice Petrovich, Andrew Porter, Karen Sheingold, and Carol Weiss. We continue to learn from their experience, expertise, and encouragement. In addition, we are grateful to Tom Corcoran and Fred Newmann for sharing their expertise during the development of our principal and teacher surveys. Several colleagues within RAND also contributed to the research underlying this report, particularly Susan Bodilly, Thomas Glennan, and Sheila Kirby, all of whom provided helpful guidance, advice, and comments. We also thank Dave Adamson for his useful editorial comments, and we are indebted to
Michael Timpane of RAND and Adam Gamoran of the University of Wisconsin-Madison for their insightful reviews and useful suggestions for improving this report. The reviews of the NAS staff also contributed to changes in this document. Despite the cooperation, support, and guidance of these individuals and agencies, however, there may be errors in this report, all of which are our responsibility.