

## *About the Author*



**Jon Saphier** is the founder and president of Research for Better Teaching, Inc., an educational consulting organization in Acton, Massachusetts, that is dedicated to the professionalization of teaching and leadership. Since 1979, he and his RBT colleagues have taught in-depth professional development programs centered on the knowledge base of teaching to educators in more than 200 school districts each year in the United States and other countries.

In 2001, he was appointed a panel member for the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to study the best methods for transferring well-established educational research knowledge to classroom practice. In 2010 RBT's Skillful Teacher model was adopted by the country of Singapore as its national program for training beginning teachers.

He is much in demand for inspirational keynotes and conference presentations across the country. Sloan-Kettering's annual IDEA Institutes voted him "Best of the Best" for their first 25-year history. In recent years he has led large-scale district improvement projects forging working alliances between superintendents, union leaders, and school boards.

Dr. Saphier presents each year at Ron Ferguson's Achievement Gap Initiative Conference at Harvard. In addition to teaching the courses RBT offers and consulting to districts on organizational development, Dr. Saphier has done on-site coaching to more than 1,000 principals on instructional leadership.

Dr. Saphier has a bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a master's degree from the London School of Economics. He was a combat medic in Vietnam. After the war he entered teaching and holds degrees in early childhood from the University of Massachusetts and a doctorate from Boston University. He has been a high school history teacher and has taught fifth grade, second grade, first grade and kindergarten. He has been an administrator and a staff developer in an urban K–8 school.

Dr. Saphier is an author and co-author of eight books, including *The Skillful Teacher* (soon to bring out its seventh edition), *How to Make Supervision and Evaluation Really Work*, *How to Bring Vision to School Improvement*, *How to Make Decisions That Stay Made*, and more recently, *On Common Ground* and *John Adams' Promise*, as well as numerous articles. *The Skillful Teacher* has sold over a half million copies and is the bible of teaching in hundreds of districts around the country. It is used as a text in 60 university teacher preparation programs, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Brown, Middlebury, and Williams.