

How to Increase Minority Student Achievement

Presented by Jamie Almanzan, James Comer, Bonnie Davis, Kati Haycock, Gary Howard, Sonia Nieto, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Colleen Almojuela, and successful principals and teachers who have closed their achievement gaps.

Secondary Edition

This program includes the following PD 360 video segments and their corresponding pages within this guidebook:

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About This Program

Most educators believe all children can learn. However, does this belief extend to all students learning at high levels—regardless of race, economic, language, gender, and ethnic background? Guided by the foundational principle of equity, schools can embrace *No Excuses!* and lift all students to high achievement. This program features extensive research into both elementary and secondary schools that have closed or are rapidly closing their achievement gaps. The schools include:

Northrich Elementary, Richardson, TX	Richardson High School, Richardson TX
Elmont Memorial High School, Elmont, NY	Jackson Street Elementary, Northampton, MA
Frankford Elementary, Frankford, DE	Taholah Education Center, Taholah, WA
Rancho Verde High School, Moreno Valley, CA	Tulalip Elementary, Marysville, WA
Mead Valley Elementary, Perris, CA	Amherst Regional Middle School, Amherst, MA

Based on the common traits found within these successful schools, the School Improvement Network created the Equity Framework, a simple-to-apply model that encapsulates the critical elements schools need to close their achievement gaps.

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Segment 2

Opening Activity:

Before viewing the video segment, discuss the following prompt with the whole learning group.

**What is *equity*? Is *equity* equal?
What role could *equity* play in high student achievement?**

Video Outline (1:46 in length)

- There are no excuses for low student achievement.
- The schools featured in this program have proven that all students can succeed at high levels regardless of race, economics, language, gender, and ethnic background.
- Closing achievement gaps requires far more than the incorporation of new strategies or a greater focus on instruction.
- It requires a systemic effort that addresses all aspects of the schooling experience for students.
- The Equity Framework provides the systemic guidance necessary as it is built upon the successful practices of schools exhibited in the program, integrated with the knowledge of nationally recognized experts in equitable school improvement.
- Equity is the over-riding focus in the framework driven by expectations, relationships, and rigor.

Follow-Up Discussion:

Discuss as a group the feasibility of your school implementing the Equity Framework.

Reflection/Journal Writing:

Following the discussion, ask participants to record new learning and ideas in their journals.

Where to go for more information on:

How to Increase Minority Student Achievement

School Improvement Network

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Publications available on this topic:

Comer, James P. *Leave No Child Behind: Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's World*. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT, 2004.

Darling-Hammond, Linda. *The Right to Learn*. Jossey-Bass. San Francisco, CA, 1997.

Haycock, Kati. *Learning from "Frontier" Schools and Districts*. Retrieved February 5, 2004 from <http://www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/Data+Tools+and+Presentations>.

Howard, Gary. *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools*. Teachers College Press. New York, NY, 1999.

Johnson, Ruth. *Using Data To Close the Achievement Gap*. Corwin Press. Thousand Oaks, CA, 2002.

Nieto, Sonia. *Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education, Fourth Edition*. Allyn & Bacon. Boston, MA, 2004.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *"Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" and Other Conversations About Race*. Harper Collins. New York, NY, 1997.

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Amherst Regional Middle School
Amherst, MA

Northampton Public Schools
Northampton, MA

School of Education
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA

Education Trust
Washington, DC

Northrich Elementary
Richardson, TX

Spelman College
Atlanta, GA

Elmont Memorial High School
Elmont, NY

Pacific Educational Group, Inc.
San Francisco, CA

Taholah Education Center
Taholah, WA

Frankford Elementary
Frankford, DE

Rancho Verde High School
Moreno Valley, CA

Tulalip Elementary
Marysville, WA

Indian River School District
Selbyville, DE

Reach Center
Seattle, WA

Val Verde USD
Moreno Valley, CA

Jackson Street School
Northampton, MA

Richardson High School
Richardson, TX

Yale Child Study Center
Yale School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

Mead Valley Elementary
Perris, CA