



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the State Superintendent of Education**

You are invited to an

**Evening Policy Forum:
The Achievement Gap: The Numbers and the Stories They Tell**

Thursday, June 12, 2008, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Bell Multicultural Senior High School
3101 16th Street, NW
Model United Nations Room

Metro: Columbia Heights Metro Station (Green Line)

The elimination of disparities in academic performance and achievement between students of different racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups represents one of the greatest challenges for our public school system. The achievement gap conversation is generally defined by the failure of students of color, students from poor families and students for whom English is a second language to reach the high levels of literacy and academic learning that are critical for educational and economic success. Another view of the achievement gap focuses on racial and socioeconomic subgroups' performance relative to desired proficiency standards. By any measure, achievement gaps among these student groups show up persistently in their grades, standardized test scores, course selection, drop-out rates, and college completion rates. These gaps represent not merely an academic problem, but also a serious threat to the economic and social fabric of our society.

Research reveals that there is no single cause of the gaps between racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups – and, similarly, no single solution. However, in an environment of increased standards and accountability - and the imperatives of state and federal education policy - educators across the country must find ways to respond to the central goal of NCLB by reducing the gaps and raising student achievement for all students.

Join the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education and advocates from the Education Trust for an evening of data, drama and discussion surrounding one of the most pressing issues we face in the District and across the nation: the achievement gap that separates low-income students and Latino and African American students from their peers, from the skills they need, and from their potentials.

EdTrust Vice President Amy Wilkins and Artist-in-Residence Brooke Haycock will take us on a whirlwind tour through the data, past the metal detectors and straight into the lives, hearts and minds of the students and educators behind the numbers. Learn about achievement and opportunity gaps at the national level and in the District of Columbia, hear the stories of local students and educators and join us for a conversation about how to close these gaps and fulfill our promise to provide all students the high quality education they need and deserve.

Guests Presenters Include:

- Brooke Haycock, Artist-in-Residence, Education Trust
- Amy Wilkins, Vice President, Education Trust

Respondents

- Dr. Kimberly Statham, Deputy Superintendent of Education Excellence, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
- Dr. Shanika Hope, Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement, Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Co-Sponsored by DC Education Compact and DC VOICE

Please RSVP no later than Monday, June 9, 2008 to Monica L. Freeman at monical.freeman@dc.gov. Seating is limited. If you have any questions regarding the forum, please feel free to contact Ms. Freeman at 202-724-2069. We look forward to seeing you in June!
