

Opening Plenary
Education Trust Annual Conference

October 24, 2013

## Percent of U.S. adults with a high school diploma

## 1920 <br> 1940 <br> 1960



## 1980

2000
2012


## Percent of U.S. adults with a B.A. or more



## Percent of U.S. adults with a high school diploma, by race

2012


Percent of U.S. adults with a B.A. or more, by race

2012


# Then, beginning in the eighties, inequality started growing again. 

# In the past four years alone, $95 \%$ of all income gains have gone to the top 1\%. 

## In 2012:

- In 2012, the top 5\% of Americans took home $22 \%$ of the nation's income; the top $.1 \%$ took home 11\%.
- And the bottom $20 \%$ took home just $3 \%$.

The typical American man makes less than he did 45 years ago (after adjusting for inflation). Men with only high school diplomas make 40\% less than they did 4 years ago.

Instead of being the most equal, the U.S. has the third highest income inequality among OECD nations.


Note: Gini coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates total income equality and 1 indicates total income inequality.
Source: United Nations, U.N. data, http://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?q=gini\&id=271: 2011

## Growing gaps are reinforced by government choices...

## Federal student aid dollars trend away from the poor: $89 \%$ of savings from tuition tax deductions go to middle- and upper-income families

Distribution of Tax Deduction Savings
by Adjusted Gross Income


■ Low-income (\$0-49,999)

■ Middle and upper-income (\$50,000+)

# ...and institutional choices, especially in higher education. 

Private nonprofit 4-year colleges now spend nearly as much on "financial aid" for their wealthiest students as they do on their poorest


Public 4-year colleges also spend nearly as much on "financial aid" for their wealthiest students as they do on their poorest.


## U.S. intergenerational mobility was increasing until 1980, but has sharply declined since.



## Now, instead of being the "land of opportunity," the <br> U.S. has one of lowest rates of intergenerational mobility.



# There is one road up, and that road runs through us. 

## Overwhelming message about what matters in turning this around?



# At macro level, better and more equal education is not the only answer. 

But at the individual level, it really is.

## College Grads Earn More



Source: College Board, Education Pays, 2013, Figure 1.1: Median Earnings and Tax Payments of Full-Time Year-Round Workers Ages 25 and Older, by Education Level, 2011

## College Grads Less Likely to be Unemployed



## They also stand out on the other things we value.

## College graduates more likely to vote



## College graduates more likely to volunteer

Percent of Adults 25 and Over Who Volunteered in 2012 by Education Level


## College Grads of all races far more likely to be in "Very Good" or "Excellent" Health



## College Grads Even Have Better Mental Health

Percentage of respondents reporting themselves to be in excellent mental health


What schools and colleges do, in other words, is hugely important to our economy, our democracy, and our society.

## So, how are we doing?



## Since 1999, large gains for all groups of students, especially students of color

9 Year Olds - NAEP LTT Reading


## Since 1999, performance rising for all groups of students

9 Year Olds - NAEP LTT Math


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

## All groups have improved since 1990



## Progress and some gap-closing over last decade



## 1996 NAEP Grade 4 Math



## 2011 NAEP Grade 4 Math



## Some districts make far bigger gains

## Reading Improvement for Latino $4^{\text {th }}$ Graders: DC, Boston, Charlotte, and LA Lead

Latino Students - NAEP TUDA Grade 4 Reading


Change in Mean Scale Score, 2003-2011

## African American students in Atlanta and Boston improved at twice the rate of their counterparts nationally



Note: Chart includes only districts that participated in, and had members of this specific subgroup, in both the 2003 and 2011 NAEP TUDA administrations. Source: NCES, NAEP Data Explorer

## Some states make far bigger gains

## African American students in New Jersey, Alabama showed

 the largest improvements in performance from 2003 to 2011 African-American Students - NAEP Grade 4 Reading

Note: Chart includes only districts that participated in, and had members of this specific subgroup, in both the 2003 and 2011 NAEP TUDA administrations. Source: NCES, NAEP Data Explorer

## From 2003 to 2011, Latino students in Maryland showed greater improvement than students in any other state <br> Latino Students - NAEP Grade 4 Reading



American Indian $8^{\text {th }}$ graders showed big improvement from 2003 to 2011 in some states

American Indian Students - NAEP Grade 8 Math


# But even as we get some traction on elementary and middle school change, we're not getting traction on our high schools. 

## Achievement is flat in reading.

17-Year-Olds Overall - NAEP LTT


## Math achievement is flat over time.

## 17-Year-Olds Overall - NAEP LTT



* Denotes previous assessment format

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP 2008 Trends in Academic Progress

And gaps between groups haven't narrowed since the late 80s and early 90 s.

## Reading: Not much gap narrowing since 1988.

17 Year Olds - NAEP LTT Reading


Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

## Math: Not much gap closing since 1990.

17 Year Olds - NAEP LTT Math


[^0]Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "The Nation's Report Card: Trends in Academic Progress 2012"

# Only place we rank high on international assessments? 

## Inequality.

Among OECD Countries, U.S. has the $4^{\text {th }}$ Largest Gap Between High-SES and Low-SES Students 2006 PISA - Science



Among OECD Countries, U.S. has the $5^{\text {th }}$ Largest Gap Between High-SES and Low-SES Students 2009 PISA - Reading



Gaps in achievement begin before children arrive at the schoolhouse door.

But, rather than organizing our educational system to ameliorate this problem, we organize it to exacerbate the problem.

## How?

## By giving students who arrive with less, less in school, too.

## Some of these "lesses" are a result of choices that policymakers make.

## Funding Gaps Between Districts: National inequities in state and local revenue per student

|  | Gap |
| :--- | :---: |
| High-Poverty versus | $-\$ 773$ |
| Low-Poverty Districts | per student |
| High-Minority versus | $-\mathbf{\$ 1 , 1 2 2}$ |
| Low-Minority Districts | per student |

per student

In truth, though, some of the most devastating "lesses" are a function of choices that educators make.

Choices we make about what to expect of whom.....


## Low SES students are receiving A's for work that would earn high SES students C's or lower.

Performance on the HSLS Algebra Assessment by Grade and SES Among Students in $8^{\text {th }}$ grade Algebra


## Choices we make about what to teach whom...

## Even African-American students with high math performance in fifth grade are unlikely to be placed in algebra in eighth grade



## Students of color are less likely to attend high schools that offer physics.



And choices we make about who teaches whom...

## Students at high-minority schools more <br> likely to be taught by novice* teachers.



Note: High minority school: 75\% or more of the students are Black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school: $10 \%$ or fewer of the students are non-White students. Novice teachers are those with three years or fewer experience.
Source: Analysis of 2003-2004 Schools and Staffing Survey data by Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania 2007.

## Math classes at high-poverty, high-minority secondary schools are more likely to be taught by out-of-field* teachers.



[^1]
## Tennessee: High-poverty/high-minority schools have fewer of the "most effective" teachers and more "least effective" teachers.



[^2]
## Los Angeles: Black, Latino students have fewer highly effective teachers, more weak ones.

Latino and black students are:

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS


# The results are devastating. 

## Kids who come in a little behind, leave a lot behind.

Add in college entry and graduation, and different groups of young
Americans obtain degrees and very different rates...

# Whites attain bachelor's degrees at nearly twice the rate of blacks and almost three times the rate of Hispanics 

Bachelor's Degree Attainment of Young Adults

(25-29-year-olds), 2011


## Young people from high-income families earn bachelor's degrees at seven times the rate of those from



## Dispelling the Myth



"As a teenager and an adolescent I had a not-so-good experience with my family, and it was school that was the one institution that was stable for me. My teachers, instead of pitying me or feeling sorry for me, they actually made sure that I learned how to read, write, and solve complex problems. And because of that I was able to determine my own destiny without my circumstances determining them for me. So for me education is about making sure our kids have the same opportunity that I had, that my teachers gave me."
"I was poor when I was little...When I became superintendent...I went and looked at my dad's permanent record. He graduated in 1935. The permanent record is a $5 \times 8$ card. His whole high school transcript is on that $5 \times 8$ card....When I looked at it, it said....I didn't tell anybody this.... It said, 'Poor family. Poor student....Not much future.'

That's what it said."
Richard Ranallo, former superintendent Steubenville, Ohio (School district of Wells Elementary, DTM 2006)


"Through my teaching experiences, I learned that my students were capable of learning just about anything I
was capable of teaching."
-Molly Bensinger-Lacy, principal, Graham Road Elementary School
(DTM 2008)

KARIN CHENOWETH CHRISTINA THEOKAS



Getting It Done

LEADING
ACADEMIC SUCCESS。
UNEXPECTED SCHOOLS

Available from
Harvard Education Press and amazon.com


## \#1. It starts by just believing.

## "Many people say all children

 can learn. Well that's true. But a parakeet can learn too. We look for people who believe that children can excel."--Jeffrey Litt



Founder and superintendent Icahn Charter School (DTM 2011)

# \#2. Grab the Common Core State Standards and put them to work. 

## 3. Assignments Matter!



## 4. Build feedback loops.

## 5. Mine the data, develop a culture of responsibility around it, and aim high.

## Percentage Below Basic Over Time



## Percentage Below Basic Over Time




Yet while we're making progress in getting White students to the Advanced level, we're not making the same progress with others...

African American and Latino students are not making gains at the advanced level at the same rate as white students

NAEP - Grade 8 Math


# We've got to grow every child, including those who come in at higher levels. 

## Roles for Districts, States, Advocates

- Start with clear message about the capacity of every child and clear expectations about improvement;
- Clear away the clutter, keep the focus on the instructional core, and cut back the incessant demand for reports...on everything;
- Don't leave schools on their own with CCSS; jump start with anchors.
- Align evaluation and Common Core timelines and protocols;
- Re-examine budgets, prioritize;
- Invest in communication with parents and community, especially around Common Core;
- Celebrate gains.

Taking on the hard, important stuff: Getting strong teachers to the kids who need them the most.

## Download this presentation at

## www.edtrust.org




[^0]:    *Denotes previous assessment format

[^1]:    Note: High-poverty school: 55 percent or more of the students are eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. Low-poverty school:15 percent or fewer of the students are eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. High-minority school: 78 percent or more of the students are black, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander. Low-minority school : 12 percent or fewer of the students are non-white students.
    *Teachers with neither certification nor major. Data for secondary-level core academic classes (math, science, social studies, English) across the U.S. Source: Education Trust Analysis of 2007-08 Schools and Staffing Survey data.

[^2]:    Note: High poverty/high minority means at least 75 percent of students qualify for FRPL and at least 75 percent are minority.
    Source: Tennessee Department of Education 2007. "Tennessee's Most Effective Teachers: Are they assigned to the schools that need them most?" http://tennessee.gov/education/nclb/doc/TeacherEffectiveness2007_03.pdf.

