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McKINSEY STUDY: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT GAP CREATING A "PERMANENT NATIONAL RECESSION"

Wide Variations Among Schools and Districts Demonstrate that Teachers, Principals and Local Leaders Are Key to Eliminating the Racial and Ethnic Achievement Gap

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 22, 2009 – A McKinsey & Company study, *Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America's Schools*, released today points out that the persistence of the economic achievement gaps imposes on the United States the economic equivalent of a permanent national recession. The study also documents the wide variations in the achievement gap that exist among similar schools and districts. This clearly demonstrates the importance of teachers, principals and local leaders in eliminating the racial and ethnic achievement gap.

"Today, a public school education is the same as sitting in the back of the bus for black, Latino and other minority students," stated the Reverend Al Sharpton, co-founder of the Education Equality Project. "We must refuse to allow students in classrooms where learning is not taking place, and the racial and ethnic achievement gap is destroying children's chances for economic opportunity."

Key data points include:

For individuals, the education achievement gap often leads to:

- lower lifetime earnings,
- poorer health, and
- higher rates of incarceration.

For many students, the achievement gap evidenced as early as fourth grade can predict:

- rates of high school and college graduation, and
- lifetime earnings.

For black and Latino students, failing to close the achievement gap led to an opportunity loss in 2008 of between \$310 billion and \$525 billion, or 2 to 4 percent of US GDP.

For low-income students, failing to close the achievement gap led to an opportunity loss in 2008 of between \$400 billion to \$670 billion, or 3 to 5 percent of US GDP.

"Fifty-five years ago, the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* struck down the framework for racially segregated public schools, but our nation's goal of education equality regardless of race, ethnic background or economic status remains unfulfilled," stated, New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein. "Every day that our nation refuses to do the work necessary to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap, we are perpetuating an injustice on our children and their future."

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ABOUT EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT

The Education Equality Project is leading a civil rights movement to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education by working to create an effective school for every child. www.edequality.org



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Melissa Ratcliff
VA/R for the Education Equality Project
melissa@varpartners.net
310.429.2778

FOR REV. SHARPTON:

Rachel Noerdlinger
revalmedia@yahoo.com
646.981.5903

FOR CHANCELLOR KLEIN:

David Cantor
dcantor@schools.nyc.gov
212.374.5141