

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT ISSUES POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACCOUNTABILITY

Second in a Series of Position Papers Focuses on Data-Driven Accountability

NEW YORK, August 11th, 2009 – The Education Equality Project (EEP) released today the second in a series of position papers outlining specific policy recommendations aimed at eliminating the racial and ethnic achievement gap in our nation’s public education system. The second paper in the series focuses on data-driven accountability. A copy of the Education Equality Project Position Paper – “On Accountability” – can be found at http://www.edequality.com/content/pages/teacher_accountability/.

Like Secretary of Education Duncan’s recently released guidelines for Race to the Top, Congress should encourage states to end the current system of dumbing-down state standards. In its place, we must develop accountability policies that measure the value that schools add, and create a better differentiated system of school improvement. The paper recommends policy changes that pursue the overarching goal of a strong accountability system in order to ensure that all students graduate from high school, prepared for a career or to enter college without requiring remediation. The EEP’s five principles for achieving such a system are:

1. EEP staunchly supports national college and career-ready standards aligned with high quality content and assessments.
2. EEP supports a reauthorization of NCLB that incorporates value-added assessment of student growth. The most serious consequences, including replacement, should be reserved for schools where students perform at low levels and fail to make progress.
3. EEP supports accountability focused on core subjects and monitoring graduation rates, advanced course taking, and college attendance.
4. EEP supports test-based accountability, including the adoption of online and adaptive assessments.
5. EEP supports the ten elements of the Data Quality Campaign (<http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org>) and the use of data to drive improvement and accountability with consequences.

“EEP is recommending specific policy proposals that are necessary to bring accountability to public education in order to reform the system, strengthen districts and schools, and help eliminate the education achievement gap that low income and minority students confront every day,” stated Ellen Winn, Director of the Education Equality Project. “The promise of good schools for all American students mandates policies that require rapid action based on good data, and these policies are a step in the right direction.”

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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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Melissa Ratcliff

VA/R for the Education Equality Project

melissa@varpartners.net

310.429.2778