>> Too Many Children Left Behind How Can We Close the Achievement Gap?

Lessons Learned

- Which statement best describes your knowledge about the achievement gap **before** the forum started?
 I had never heard of the achievement gap.
 - □ I had heard the term, but did not know what it was.
 - I knew a little bit about the achievement gap, but not very much.
 - □ I had a basic understanding of the achievement gap.
 - \Box I knew a lot about the achievement gap.
- 2. Which statement best describes your knowledge about the achievement gap <u>after</u> the forum ended?
 - \Box I heard the term, but still do not understand it.
 - I know a little bit more about the achievement gap, but not enough.
 - □ I have a basic understanding of the achievement gap.
 - \Box I know a lot about the achievement gap.
- 3. Which of the following approaches offers the most promise for addressing the achievement gap in your community?
 - \Box Raise expectations and demand accountability.
 - \Box Close the spending gap.
 - \Box Address the root causes.
 - A combination of "raise expectations and demand accountability" and "close the spending gap."
 - A combination of "raise expectations and demand accountability" and "address the root causes."
 - \Box A combination of "close the spending gap" and "address the root causes."
 - \Box A combination of all three approaches.
 - \Box None of the approaches is appropriate for our community.
- 4. During discussions of important social issues, participants often experience a few moments of surprise when they learn something for the first time, or come to understand the point-of-view of other people in a new way. What surprised you most about the achievement gap discussion?

QUESTIONNAIRE >>

 a. I feel that the achievement gap is a very important issue. b. As a result of the forum, I feel a greater desire to learn more about the test scores in my community. c. As a result of the forum, I feel a greater desire to understand what the local schools and community organizations are doing to reduce the achievement gap. d. As a result of the forum, I feel a greater desire to get involved in local efforts to reduce the achievement gap. e. Ordinary citizens need to take this issue seriously and participate in efforts to reduce the achievement gap. e. Ordinary citizens need to take this issue seriously and participate in efforts to reduce the achievement gap. g. The achievement gap is an issue for the schools and not the community. g. The achievement gap is an issue for the community and not the schools. 6. As you look forward to next week, what one action do you think you could take to improve the educational experience of a single child in your neighborhood? 7. How old are you? 1. How likely are you to take that action? Mot at all likely Somewhat unlikely Not sure Some what likely Somewhat unlikely Not sure Not at all likely Somewhat unlikely Not sure Some what merican/Black Asian American/Pacific Islander American/White Hispanic Native American Other (please specify) 9. Are you: Male Female 10. How much schooling have you had? 11. Please put a "check" by each of the following descriptions that apply to you today: Some college, university, or technical school courses Oran acollege, university, or technical school courses Graduate level course Graduate level course Graduate level course Graduate level course	5.	Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
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African American/Black Asian American/Pacific Islander Caucasian/White Hispanic Native American Other (please specify)	7.	□ 17 or younger □ 18–30 □ 31–40	4	1–50		51–60		
10. How much schooling have you had? □ No high school □ Some high school □ Degree from a college, university, or technical school □ Degree from a college, university, or technical school □ Graduate degree or higher 11. Please put a "check" by each of the following descriptions that apply to you today: □ Student □ Parent □ Employee of a social service organization □ Volunteer associated with a local social service organization □ Conduct a follow-up interview with people who participated in the achievement gap discussion. If you are willing to participate in an interview, please provide your name and phone number below. Not everyone will be contacted and your information will not be used for any other purpose. Name Phone number City where your deliberative forum was held Phone number	8.	African American/Black Asian American/Pacific Islander Caucasian/White Hispanic						
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