

>> Too Many Children Left Behind

How Can We Close the Achievement Gap?

Lessons Learned

1. 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.
 - I knew a lot about the achievement gap.

2. Which statement best describes your knowledge about the achievement gap **after** the forum ended?
 - 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.
 - 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?
 - Raise expectations and demand accountability.
 - Close the spending gap.
 - 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.”
 - A combination of “close the spending gap” and “address the root causes.”
 - A combination of all three approaches.
 - 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?

- | | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? | | | | | |
| a. I feel that the achievement gap is a very important issue. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. As a result of the forum, I feel a greater desire to learn more about the test scores in my community. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. As a result of the forum, I feel a greater desire to get involved in local efforts to reduce the achievement gap. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Ordinary citizens need to take this issue seriously and participate in efforts to reduce the achievement gap. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. The achievement gap is an issue for the schools and not the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. The achievement gap is an issue for the community and not the schools. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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?

How likely are you to take that action?

- Not at all likely Somewhat unlikely Not sure Somewhat likely Very likely

7. How old are you?

- 17 or younger 18–30 31–40 41–50 51–60
 61–70 Over 70

8. What is your race or ethnic heritage?

- African American/Black Asian American/Pacific Islander Caucasian/White Hispanic
 Native American Other (please specify) _____

9. Are you: Male Female

10. How much schooling have you had?

- No high school Some high school High school graduate
 Some college, university, or technical school courses Degree from a college, university, or technical school
 Some graduate level courses 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 school district
 Employee of a social service organization Volunteer associated with a local school district
 Volunteer associated with a local social service organization
 Employed by the government (not elected or on the staff of an elected official)

As part of our research effort, we would like to 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 _____

Please give this form to the forum leader, or mail it to The Public and Public Education Research, Kettering Foundation, 200 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45459-2777.