

# NoExcuses

*Closing the Racial Gap  
in Learning*

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BOOKNOTES  
BRIAN P. LAMB  
C-SPAN AIR DATE  
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How many  
charter schools  
visited  
Cambridge schools  
17,000 per student

Class size  
Money per pupil  
Teacher qualifications  
No excuses schools

NCLB - signed  
Jan 2002

Asians - why are  
they ahead

755. Abigail Thernstrom  
No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning  
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Blacks and Hispanics have made no progress in last 15 yrs.  
No child left behind - tough mandatory testing - passed 2001  
racial gap - blacks and Hispanics graduating from high school -  
majority was 8th grade level of learning - 1/3rd whites are same  
90% of students attend public schools

KIPP schools  
charter schools don't go by other rules - like whether you want -  
absence of teamwork among teacher affects learning  
KIPP - cell phone always on - 800 number  
need to work kids harder - nonstop learning - lefty homework

Rafe E. Squith  
What is the progressive approach to teaching math p62  
We didn't find many great schools in difficult settings p64

North Star / Non-Atwood / KIPP DC Key Academy  
Chicago 44% of teachers white 43% A.A.  
Miami 37% " " "  
LA 53%

make up 1/5 of all medical students  
54% had Bach. degree or more - white 34% - 18% Blacks  
Asian high schoolers spend twice as much time on homework

Chap 5 Asians

2001 - Freshman class in 1529 Stanford 25 Cal Tech 24 Penn 19  
18 at Columbia 17 at Howard 15 at Brown and Yale  
12 Duke and Princeton

Chap 6 Hispanics - thinks of them as Italian in early  
20th century

Endnote

44% of foreign born Hispanic fails to graduate from HS  
6 out of 10 natural born do graduate  
15% of Hispanic eighth graders in 1988 had completed college in 20.  
1998 referendum in Calif. Prop 227 - Stop bi-lingual  
1/3 adult population Hispanic pop lives in CA.

Chap 7 Blacks -

TV - 4th grade 5 hours a day - social homework

Acting Black - society is racist and they don't have a chance

anyway

no. of books in black college graduate home 128 p146

Shaker Heights - 10,000 a student - 30% blacks - all is not well

What is the impact of parental education

Use three indicators of social status ① parental education

② residence ③ free lunch eligibility

low birth weight make a difference

living with one parent

37% of black children live with two parents

27% percent of whites

3 children per black parent

65% Hispanic

1 child per white

81% Asian

Number of books in home

blacks are behind their counterparts when they start kindergarten

It's hard to talk about this problem in public - blacks don't want whites coming into their homes - telling them to see like white

African American children especially boys are more likely than others to break the rules.

Disorder in the classroom:

Are Asians born with a "smart gene" Is it genetic

There is a companion to East European Jews



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Chap 8

P 158

conventional wisdom - racial gap is a result of

- ① inadequate funding
- ② racial segregation
- ③ too few teachers with professionally sanctioned credentials

Money

— fed spends 1% of total ed dollar  
14.5% in New O 13.4 in Ill 12.0 Balt. 11.7. Philli

Class sizes -

Jonathan Kozol

Pincetons and Camden p 158

Savage Inequalities

11.8 students 11.5

Teacher quality more important than class size

Kansas City 2001 - 2 Billion in 15 yrs. Had story p 164

Cambridge 17,000 per student student/teacher ~~1.8~~ <sup>9.8</sup> to 1

Chap 9

Whites 61%	Hispanics 6%
Blacks 17%	Asians 4%

Chap 9 More than half hispanics live in 2 states  
moving to a racially integrated school has no impact  
on grades and achievement  
reading better not math

2001 AP course tests and completion exam

Whites 61	- 65
Blacks 17	- 4
Hispanics 16	- 9
Asians 4	- 14

\* There is no good excuse for the magnitude of the racial gap in academic performance - assumption uniform  
Christine Ladd book p 184

Chap 10 -

Teachers from Schools of Education  
teacher quality - 3% are associated with teacher experience

39 states test teachers as of 2003

graduate degree - 2 billion a year - don't have much impact

low expectations hurt black students

Pygmalion effect - can teach low income to become elite p 195  
Black have higher expectations for the future than white

Book 41 - goals - didn't happen Chap 12

Package of reforms

- ① Standards
- ② Testing
- ③ Accountability

NCLB - remarkable turn of events p241 (ESEA)  
2001  
every student must be academically "proficient" by 2014  
safe to predict - increasing conflict over high stakes testing in future

Chap 13 Esquivel's fame and outside funding allow him to break the usually capping rules.

Teacher - country will need 2 million new teachers over next 10 yrs.

Shouldn't spend all their studying education -

Pay - no incentive to do better  
Math and science teachers are in short supply

Tenure

Joel Klein - Academy of Leadership

Roy Posner - hasn't moved the needle

Rudy Crew (4 yrs in NYC) got tenure for Principals abolished

Unions

working short days and enjoying long vacation have  
time to work for political candidates

NEA didn't endorse LCLB - AFT did

2700 charter schools in 36 states and D.C.

There are 99,000 public schools in US 15,000 school districts

Charter 1% of enrollment

Chester Eism - Washington has little clout - if state

repeal NCLB

NCLB - give parents unprecedented right to transfer students  
out of a year if after 2 years they fail to make progress

Charters / vouchers / choice p266

You predict NCLB will not close racial gap p269



Chap 10 -  
Do minority kids  
need minority teachers?