

# CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP: A SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVE

May 16, 2008

Philadelphia, PA

Co-Sponsored By



8:00 -8:30 am	<b><i>Registration</i></b>	
8:30 – 8:45 am	<b><i>Welcome</i></b>	<b><i><u>Grand Salon – Main Floor</u></i></b>
	<b>Dr. Robert Jarvis, Director of K-12 Outreach, Penn Center for Educational Leadership</b> <b>Bob Alig, Regional VP, The College Board, Middle States Regional Office</b>	
8:45 – 9:30 am	<b><i>Keynote Speaker</i></b>	<b><i><u>Grand Salon – Main Floor</u></i></b>
	<b>Kati Haycock, President, Education Trust</b>	
9:45 – 11:00 am	<b><i>Morning Breakout Sessions</i></b>	
11:15 – 11:30am	<b><i>CollegeKeys Compact</i></b>	<b><i><u>Grand Salon – Main Floor</u></i></b>
	<b>Jacqueline Woods, Project Director, CollegeKeys Compact</b>	
11:30 – 1:00 pm	<b><i>Luncheon Speaker</i></b>	<b><i><u>Grand Salon – Main Floor</u></i></b>
	<b>Carol Fixman, Executive Director, Philadelphia Education Fund</b>	
1:15 – 2:15 pm	<b><i>Afternoon Breakout Sessions</i></b>	
2:30 – 3:00 pm	<b><i>Closing Remarks</i></b>	<b><i><u>Grand Salon – Main Floor</u></i></b>
	<b>Lee Fails, Vice-President of Region and Account Services, The College Board</b>	

## ***Morning and Afternoon Breakout Sessions***

**Abington School District, Pennsylvania**  
***Opportunities to Learn: Equity, Access and Success for All!***

***Bala Room – Main Floor***

Abington School District is engaged in an “Opportunities to Learn” initiative that involves administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members. With a particular focus on the academic success of minority students and special education students, the goal of the multiyear project is to have all students engaged in rigorous coursework and achieving academic proficiency. This session will provide an overview of the initiative and a summary of the achievement data collected to date. Abington School District as a K-12 district enrolls 7,444 students of which 90% of graduates attend post secondary schools. Demographics: 5% Asian, 21% black, 70% white, 11% special education, 11% free/reduced lunch.

**Presenters: Dr. Amy Sichel, Dr. Ann Bacon, Dr. Robert Burt, Ernest Johnson, and James Lodewick**

**Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium**  
***Developing a Model for Regional School District Collaboration for Promoting Equity and Closing the Gaps***

***Bryn Mawr Room – Main Floor***

In its 4th year of existence, the Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium has become an influential tri-state collaborative of 25 regional school districts and two county Intermediate Units in PA, NJ and DE that are focused on significantly

improving the engagement and academic success of all students, and especially their students of color. We will be sharing the critical lessons we are learning about *systemically* closing our racial achievement gaps, as well as how this partnership has supported districts' efforts to learn from national experts and one another about effective instructional and student support practices, and at a district level, change structures, policies and practices that have historically reinforced the disparities between racial subgroups of students.

**Presenters: Dr. Robert Jarvis and Dr. Claudia Lyles**

**East Rochester Public Schools, New York**

**Gladwyne Room – Main Floor**

***Advantaging All Students: A Comprehensive Approach to Increasing Student Achievement***

This presentation describes the district's initiative to increase achievement for all students at all levels. The focus will be on early childhood literacy initiatives, assessments, and the district's commitment to improving achievement at the middle level to prepare more students for Advanced Placement courses in the high school. The East Rochester Union District is a small, economically diverse, school district on the eastside of Rochester, NY. It consists of a pre-kindergarten-sixth grade elementary school and a junior/senior high school housed on one campus with a total population of 1197 students. Approximately 30% of the student body is eligible for free and/or reduced lunch.

**Presenters: Dr. Howard Maffucci, Catherine Terrell, and Susan Miller**

**Hackensack School District, New Jersey**

**Haverford Room – Main Floor**

***Raising Achievement & Closing Gaps***

No issue in American education is more controversial than the federal mandate of NCLB. Some people view it as the linchpin of successful educational reform, while others see it as a threat to quality teaching and learning. Whatever the perspective, one thing is clear: "high-stakes" testing has come to dominate the educational landscape. In this session, participants will gain a clear understanding of how a semi-urban public school district in New Jersey with a culturally diverse student population closed the achievement gap and met the expectations of NCLB by raising the "Academic Bar" for all students.

**Presenters: Mike Wojcik, Robert Gamper, Lillian Whitaker, and Donna Petrin-Wall**

**Montgomery County Public Schools, Maryland**

**Villanova Room – Main Floor**

***Closing the Opportunity Gap: Identifying African American and Hispanic Students for Enrollment in Honors and Advanced Placement Courses***

A unique technology tool, HAPIT© (Honors/AP Identification Tool), identifies students who have the capability to participate in rigorous courses based on PSAT results and other relevant information. MCPS has developed unique strategies to support college-going success through College Ed in middle schools, PSAT and SAT in high school, and increased participation in Honors and AP. MCPS is dedicated to ensuring that success is no longer predictable by race. Urban/suburban system, NW of Washington, D.C., 138,000 students. In the last 10 years, MCPS has gone from a predominantly white population to a more diverse student group: White-40%, African American-23%, Hispanic-21.5%, Asian American-15%.

**Presenters: Dr. Frank Stetson and Carol Blum**

**National Office for School Counselor Advocacy, The College Board**

**Merion Room – Main Floor**

***Using Data and Collaborative Leadership to Drive Systemic Change***

This session will focus on the power of using data in a collaborative leadership team to create equitable systemic change. In districts across the country changing demographics, persistent gaps and shrinking budgets heighten the need for strategic efforts to advance the academic agenda for all students. In this session participants will learn analysis strategies when examining access, attainment and achievement data necessary to promote equity across the school community. Additionally, a focus on using data information to both leverage and drive the work of a collaborative leadership team for systemic change will be presented.

**Presenter: Dr. Vivian Lee**

**Rockville Centre School District, New York**

**Overbrook Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

***Leadership in Creating Avenues for Access to High Level Curriculum and Educational Attainment for All Students***

Student achievement follows from opportunities, and the persistent practice of tracking denies a range of learning opportunities to large numbers of students- more often than not, students of color and/or students from economically disadvantaged circumstances. The demonstrated results of the Rockville Centre School District- a racially/ethnically and economically diverse district on Long Island- are compelling, as all students are now taught in "high track" curricula- New York Regents and International Baccalaureate. Achievement and success in passing the state assessments and attaining Regents diplomas have increased dramatically for all subgroups of students, including majority, minority, special education, and high and low SES.

**Presenters: Dr. William Johnson, Delia Garrity**