

***Do we want Teach for America running our IPS? I don't.  
The hidden influence of Teach for America ideology on education in Indianapolis:  
A commentary on why Alessia Johnson must not be IPS superintendent***

In December 2018, our IPS selected Aleesia Johnson as interim superintendent. Today, she's being considered for superintendent. See more details here:

[http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/education/article\\_cb064c2e-56d6-11e9-9c6d-1f86e965a464.html](http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/education/article_cb064c2e-56d6-11e9-9c6d-1f86e965a464.html)

Previously, in March of 2018, the Mind Trust\* introduced Mr. Brandon Brown as its new CEO. Founder David Harris was leaving <https://www.themindtrust.org/news/mind-trusts-founder--stepping-down/> to dismantle and privatize public school districts in other cities. Review: <https://tultican.com/2018/03/19/indianas-destroy-public-education-leader-is-going-national/>

Of course, here in Indy, we know the Mind Trust's national reputation. For details read: <https://www.themindtrust.org/education-revolution-indianapolis/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Mind\\_Trust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mind_Trust).

Note, however, viable critiques: <http://kheprw.org/the-mind-trust-is-a-trojan-horse-that-is-destroying-indianapolis-public-education/> and <https://tultican.com/2018/01/04/the-mind-trust-attack-of-public-education-is-led-by-democrats/>

During this same March, Brian Dickey, acting Director of Mayor Joe Hogsett's Office of Education Innovation, was replaced by Patrick McAlister.

***What do Aleesia, Brandon, and Brian have in common? All are TfA alum\*\****

- Aleesia: Teacher, 6th grade Science/Social Studies, Paterson NJ Public Schools, 2 yrs.
- Brandon: Carnahan HS, St. Louis Public Schools, 2 yrs.

Let's look at the administrative staff of mayor Hogsett's Office of Education (OEI). Of the 7 OEI staff, 4 are TfA alumni. <http://oei.indy.gov/our-team/>

- Brain Dickey, now Deputy Director of Charter Schools, is TfA. Fall Creek Academy, Indianapolis, 2 yrs.
- Monica Hingst, Assistant Director of Academic Performance is TfA. Math Teacher, Denver Public Schools, 3 yrs.
- Morgan Cooksey, Sr. Academic Performance Analyst is TfA. Crispus Attucks, 2 yrs.
- Haley Wing-Suttle, Policy Analyst is TfA. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, IPS, 2yrs.

Though McAlister is not TfA, he taught for Teach Plus <https://teachplus.org/IN>, a TfA-like teacher prep program started here by TfA alum (IPS Tech HS, 2 yrs)--former IPS commissioner Caitlin Hannon and founder of Enroll Indy.

<https://www.teachforamerica.org/stories/indys-leading-changemakers-a-conversation-with-caitlin-hannon-executive-director-of-enroll>

***LEE: Leadership for Educational Equity***

**“After the Corps: Lead alongside those shaping the political, economic, and social future of our country”**

LEE <https://educationalequity.org/> was founded in 2007 as a 501(c)(4) spin-off of TfA to provide resources, training, and networking for alumni who are interested in elected office or other extra-curricular leadership positions.

### **“Your Potential is Limitless”**

“After your two-year commitment in the classroom, you become an alumnus of Teach For America. You’ll join a diverse network of change-makers--civil rights attorneys, socially conscious CEOs, ed-tech entrepreneurs, career educators, and many more--who are working to create opportunity nationwide.

Teach For America's alumni are providing critical leadership--as teachers, school and district leaders; elected officials and policy advisers; and founders and leaders of education and social reform initiatives--to ensure all children have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.”

We can easily see LEE’s goals are to “...place TfA alum in elected office in policy or advocacy leadership roles in active pipelines for public leadership--all to shift control over American education reform to a specific group of spritely college grads-turned-politicians with a very specific politics.”

**Indianapolis** <https://www.teachforamerica.org/where-we-work/indianapolis>

**Life as an alum** <https://www.teachforamerica.org/life-as-an-alum>

**Teach for All** <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1070361.pdf>

### **Teach for America and Teach For All: Creating an Intermediary Organization Network for World-Wide Education Reform**

More specifically, TfA and its international iterations by way of TFAI, represent a systemic deregulation of teacher preparation away from state-run colleges of education while also producing corps members who embody neo-liberal assumptions about meritocracy and credentialism as a means and method of individualistic economic competition.

### **Teacher Education and the Global Impact of Teach For All**

Over the past two decades, teacher education has been increasingly conceptualized as a policy problem in response to what school reformers, policy makers, and philanthropists have depicted as a global education crisis necessitating national and international solutions. Teach For All (TFAI), an organization that has sought to respond to global achievement disparities by recruiting elite university graduates to teach in underperforming schools has a presence in more than 45 countries and is a key player in education reform worldwide. In enacting its vision of educational change, TFAI has reshaped notions of teaching at the classroom level by positioning teachers as saviors, leaders, and social engineers; reconfigured city school systems through promoting privatization and deregulation; and contributed to the rapid neo-liberalization (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/n/neoliberalism.asp>) of education internationally by fundamentally altering educational policies and discourses on a global scale. [https://www.academia.edu/36929378/Teacher\\_Education\\_and\\_the\\_Global\\_Impact\\_of\\_Teach\\_For\\_All?auto=download](https://www.academia.edu/36929378/Teacher_Education_and_the_Global_Impact_of_Teach_For_All?auto=download)

### ***GERM (Global Education Reform Movement)***

#### **How GERM is infecting schools around the world**

‘We must stop the GERM that puts such a pressure on children in schools through competition, choice, and accountability. Choosing collaboration, equity and trust-based responsibility as the main drivers in education reforms enhance immunity of our school systems to stop GERM and have good schools for all children.’ ~ Pasi Sahlberg

<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/How-GERM-the-Global-Education-Reform-Movement-is-infecting-schools-around-the-world.pdf>

**Connecting the dots: “The sun never sets on the corporate reform empire”**

For more, see “Global education reform: understanding the movement” by Kay Fuller & Howard Stevenson at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00131911.2019.1532718>.

***Corporatocracy vs. democracy: Will the future of our IPS be determined by TfA or by voters?***

If Alessia Johnson becomes the superintendent of our IPS, while Brandon Brown is leading the Mind Trust and Hogsett’s OEI has a majority of TfA graduates, America’s TfA initiative will have met its goal of placing TfA alumni in positions of power and control so as to enable the privatization of public education, of all things...

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\*The Mind Trust was the organization that recruited Teach for America, along with the New Teacher Project, and Stand for Children to Indianapolis.

\*\*Salaries in 6 figures?

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