

The racial politics of the Achievement Gap

“To believe in the existence of any sort of achievement gap, some sort of racial hierarchy is actually to believe in a racist idea. The achievement gap between the races with whites and Asians at the top and blacks and Latinos at the bottom is a racist hierarchy. And this popular racist hierarchy has been constructed by our religious faith in standardized testing.”
-- Ibram X. Kendi

Stand for Children (Stand/SfC) promotes the myth of the Achievement Gap and standardized testing as the cornerstone and main judge of the success of students and schools, and so Stand’s success.

Unfortunately, there is nothing more political in respect to education than standardized testing and the use of test scores to sort and ranks students.

“Standardized tests have become the most effective racist weapons ever devised to objectively degrade Black minds and legally exclude their bodies.” -- Ibram X. Kendi

Standardized testing is both the enforcer and Achilles heel of the corporate school reform movement. While using test scores to justify decisions, school privatizers know standardized testing is a flawed idea.

“Consistent with notions of American identity, standardized testing, as an opposition to a cultural other, represents the normalization of whiteness, richness, and maleness.”
~ Andrew Hartman

Please realize: testing **for** learning is natural; testing **of** learning, which sorts and ranks students, is a political concept. Reformers fear the day when the public discovers the racial bigotry behind this sorting and ranking tool used to legitimize white supremacy.

This is all explained in “Past and present: Eugenics, standardized tests, and politics of school reform: Hoosier connections and challenges “ at <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Past-present-Eugenics-standardized-tests-the-politics-of-school-reform-Hoosier-connections-challenges.pdf>.

In summary, as SfC attempts to use power (enabled by lots and lots of money) to “reform” [not revolutionize] our tradition public schools, it will find itself stuck in the rut of standardization.

Stand’s road to success is a dead end

Stand’s chosen road to success is guided by the Achievement Gap. It is validated by standardized test scores ordering and grading students as to how white, rich, and male they are. And, this road full of ruts is necessary for Stand in order for the organization to exist. The tragedy for Stand is this same road is a “dead end.”