

To the Black Education Reform Establishment: Be Real with Who You Are and Whose Interest You Represent

Here's a link and short excerpt from Dr. Keith Benson's, "To the Black Education Reform Establishment: Be Real with Who You Are and Whose Interest You Represent." See: https://www.academia.edu/38324301/To_the_Black_Education_Reform_Establishment_Be_Real_with_Who_You_Are_and_Who_s_Interest_You_Represent.pdf

Benson's analysis provides a counter narrative to the current "School choice is black choice" tour by Roland Martin. See: <http://schoolchoiceistheblackchoice.com/>.

"The black 'leaders' cannot both to advocate for a packaging of education that stresses discipline, compliance, and testing on black student bodies that white suburbanites, whose schools they compare urban public schools to in order to cast as deficient, would never send their children to while continuing to pretend to be advocates for quality education for black people.

"These 'leaders' cannot both tout the virtues of school 'choice,' where corporate charters only exist in communities of color where residents' democratic rights have been taken away from them; where residents cannot vote for their local boards of education, and whose public schools are closed against their will to be given away to the same corporate interests the black 'leadership' establishment represent. Black 'leaders' in education cannot be both on the side of our communities if they take up the causes funded by hedge fund owners, and foundations whose principals actively work to suppress black wages and rob black families of needed economic and health benefits. Black 'leaders' in education cannot be consider themselves represent-tatives of the best interests of black communities and simultaneously ignore the plainly identifiable correlation between the gentrification, resident displacement and the rise of corporate charters in urban America. The black educational 'leadership' establishment cannot be who they claim to be if they are silent in connecting the dots between the rise in corporate charters and Teach for America, and the resulting decline of black educators."