

21 ways to dismantle and de-democratize our IPS

“For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.” -- Audre Lorde

“The crisis is not about education at all. It's about power.” -- James Baldwin

1 Set 2002 No Child Left behind benchmarks based on white middle-class standards of intelligence and school success, and then use a Eugenics-based standardized testing scheme to enforce these benchmarks.

2 Next, defund public education, weakening those now under-resourced urban schools so that they become susceptible to being closed and/or taken over. In 2009 Gov. Daniels cuts \$300,000,000 from school budget.

3 Promote standardized testing as the cornerstone and main judge of the success of students and schools. Unfortunately, there is nothing more political in respect to education than standardized testing and the use of test scores. Yet, some of the greatest defenders of standardized testing are civil rights leaders who rely on the testing data in their well-meaning lobbying efforts for greater accountability and resources.

“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. Please realize: testing **for** learning is natural; testing **of** learning 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.*

4 Spread the myth of the Achievement Gap which is supposedly revealed and measured by standardized tests. “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.” -- Dr. Denisha Jones, Trinity University

5 Realize competing economically with other mid-west cities requires Indy to have boutique charter schools to attract millennials and “knowledge workers” who'd not be interested in moving here if they had to send their children to regular IPS schools. This is done by: a) opening a variety of select charter/Innovation schools; b) gentrifying downtown, White River, and surrounding inner-city neighborhoods with “hip” housing, and” chic” restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, galleries, and, c) having an efficient IndyGo bus system with Red/Blue Lines, and a downtown transit center situated to keep the pedestrian class bus riders located.

6 So, bring in Stand for Children and others to buy the 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018 IPS school board elections. In 2012, winning reform candidates had \$202,764; their 6 losing opponents had just \$4,957.

See “Is Stand for Children buying IPS school board election?” Amos Brown *Indianapolis Recorder* 10.23.14 http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/opinion/article_a70c6f3c-5ac4-11e4-876b-a7f89f4dbd8a.html

7 Discard America's representative democracy: Disenfranchisement 2.0, James Crow and the Pipeline to Corporatocracy. American citizens want the right to control their public schools and elect representatives to the school board. People went to jail and others died for our right to vote for those we want to represent us. This governance scam that allows the boards of charters/Innovation school to be selected not elected is nothing more than a power grab to transfer control of public education and its funding to the private interests. Using James Crow--a more sophisticated form of Jim Crow--charters/Innovations disenfranchise citizens and parents who can vote in/out members of traditional public school boards, but can't vote in/out members of charter/Innovation school boards who spend their taxes. It's a step away from democracy to a corporatocracy.

8 Taxation without representation is nothing but tyranny. To the extent many charters and Innovations are in segregated and under-resourced areas, by not having these same area's parents and community members elect/un-elect the board of directors and principal who spend their taxes, *these schools actually disenfranchise the very people they claim they are helping.* It's the tyranny of taxation without representation. This won't happen with Local School Councils. Each traditional Chicago school is run by a LSC of 6 parents/2 community members elected every 2 years, plus 2 teachers, and the principal who's hired or fired by the LSC.

9 Spread the false narrative that schools are broken. Public schools were never meant to educate all children, especially Black and brown. Thus, to the extent public schools are not educating these students, they

are succeeding in what they were created to do. Public schools don't need fixing. We can't call schools designed to fail broken. See *The White Architects of Black Education: ideology & Power in America 1865-1954*.

10 Say the cause of broken schools are bad teachers and the unions supporting them. Fuel the myth of the "lazy veteran teacher" who is not accountable and needs to be replaced with someone younger. Next give Teach for America recruits the hero story: "Don't you want to change the world? Then go into places where the poor and disadvantaged live, where young people just can't do well on their own, and go save them."

11 Let Stand for Children come into IPS schools to recruit teachers, students, staff, and parents. No other Indy group has this much leeway. Note SfC is not a group run *by* parents, but a group run *for* parents.

12 Bring in Hot 96.3 FM hip-hop DJs and WTLC FM/AM radio personalities to instigate a 9-day May 2017 effort to gaslight students (without their parents/guardians there) and teachers into accepting the new IPS all-choice high school plan. <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Without-parents-present-IPS-tries-to-engineer-the-consent-of-students-to-accept-its-plan-to-reinvent-high-school.pdf>

13 Hold a 2017 series of politically concocted IPS Facilities Utilization Task Force meetings as well as community meetings at each of the high schools considered for closing. These sessions were mere formalities contrived and orchestrated to engineer public buy-in for policy decisions that were already decided.

14 Although charters are intentionally made to be fundamentally different from regular public schools, spread the story that regular public schools and charters are directly comparable.

15 Locate an enrollment scheme (Enroll Indy) in our publically funded IPS Education Center to maximize complete control of the district's Portfolio privatization plan by manipulating where students attend school through prioritizing filling the empty seats at charter/Innovation schools over regular IPS schools.

16 Push the myth of a market-driven, competitive business model of education as best--when in reality, privatization of public education enables individualism and undermines the common good. "Privatization is a kind of reverse social contract: it dissolves the bonds that tie us together into free communities and democratic republics. It puts us back in the state of nature where we possess a natural right to get whatever we can on our own, but at the same time lose any real ability to secure these rights. Private choices rest on individual power. Public choices rest on civic rights and common responsibilities and presume equal rights for all. *Privatization turns parents from citizens to consumers.*" -- Ben Barber Here, democracy is no longer voting, it's shopping.

17 Bring in someone not from Indiana with no emotional attachment to IPS. Allow him to bring in friends <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/IPS-2016-17-pay-info-Dr.-Ferebees-NC-team.pdf> and peers from North Carolina and pay them well to help him dismantle IPS. Give him over \$250,000/yr to pretend schools need closing due to loss of students and funding while all along planning to replace them: IPS closes 3 (Broad Ripple, Arlington, Northwest), yet opens 3 new ones (Herron, Riverside, and Purdue Poly Tech)!

18 Spread the false narrative that Black students just need Black teachers/school leaders. Black teachers/school leaders who have been victimized by schools become oppressors themselves--not using critical pedagogies and not educating students for liberation and critical citizenship. If black teachers have white supremacist ideologies they're not going to do much to help black young people. Black teachers/school leaders can colonize students of color just like white teachers--especially in the neo-colonial climate of charters and Innovations. See Dr. Chris Emdin's *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all Too*.

19 Place an agent of local corporate power Eli Lilly on IPS board. Past Lilly lobbyist now Commissioner Michael O'Connor ran in 2016 on **\$33,985**. Opponent Chris Prince lost, but got 46% of the vote with just **\$100**.

20 Have the Indiana superintendent of public instruction appointed not elected. After shoo-in incumbent Dr. Tony Bennett's upset loss to Democrat Glenda Ritz in 2012, the Republican controlled state legislature made sure this would not happen again and passed a law requiring the state superintendent to be appointed.

21 Promote accumulation by dispossession (assets previously belonging to one group are put into circulation as capital for another group) and **whiteness as property** whereby IPS sells its land, buildings and schools (i.e. Fletcher Ave television studio, Mass Ave. Coca Cola plant, E. 16th St maintenance bldg, the Mallory bldg on E. Wash. St, and schools 64, 97, 81, 78, and 92, and now possibly the Ed Center) to mainly white business interests who are defining the elite concept of what a gentrified Indy will look like. Read *Charter schools, race, and public space: Where the market meets grassroots resistance* by Dr. Kirsten Buras.

What to do? De-colonize and democratize public education, both traditional and charter/Innovation schools.

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