

## **What is the “Achievement Gap?”**

The following statistics come from The Education Equality Project. For more information, go to [www.educationequalityproject.org](http://www.educationequalityproject.org).

- By 4th grade, African-American and Latino students are, on average, nearly three academic years behind their white peers.
- Barely half of African-American, Latino, and Native American students graduate from high school, with African American students graduating at 54%, Latinos at 56%, Native Americans at 51% and their white counterparts at 77%.
- The average student eligible for free/reduced lunch is approximately two years of learning behind the average ineligible student.

The huge difference in academic performance between students from different economic circumstances and racial/ethnic backgrounds is what we call the **achievement gap**.

## **Why should I care about the achievement gap?**

The poor performance and of our young students of color in school makes a terrible difference throughout their lives.

- High school dropouts live up to 7 years fewer than high school graduates.
- The Census Bureau estimates suggest that in terms of today’s dollars, high school graduates will earn an average of about \$2.5 million, or about \$1 million less over their working lives than college graduates.
- Roughly one in 10 young male high school dropouts is in jail or juvenile detention. Roughly one in 35 young male high school graduates is in jail or juvenile detention.

The achievement gap is real, and it calls for your participation in supporting the success of all our students who struggle in school.

The School Report Card helps you find out whether the achievement gap is as large of a problem at your school as it is in the rest of the school district. You can also use the report card to see if the problem has become bigger or smaller since last year.

**Look at how African-American students at your school did on the CST compared to White students and other student groups on the Student Groups page (page 4) of the School Report Card.**

African Americans scoring proficient or advanced in...	2008-09	2009-10	LAUSD Average
English language arts	7%	8%	5%
Math	5%	3%	2%

*For more information, contact the School Report Card at (213) 241-5600 or [reportcard@lausd.net](mailto:reportcard@lausd.net).*