



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
URBAN SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT

# eNEWS



NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
Culturally Responsive  
Educational Systems



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## UPDATE

Happy Holidays from NCCRESt and NIUSI! We look forward to a new year of great work improving educational systems for ALL students.

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## NOTICES

The NIUSI web address has changed to [www.urbanschools.org](http://www.urbanschools.org). Please update any links to the site that you may have, or add it as a link to your site!

If you would like to submit an idea for the content of this eNEWS, including events, resources, and websites, or featured work, please email [kate.templeton@cudenver.edu](mailto:kate.templeton@cudenver.edu)

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## SPOTLIGHT

**NCCREST'S NATIONAL FORUM ON DISPROPORTIONALITY** Join some of the top educators, policy makers, advocacy groups, parents, and community members from across the United States on February 15th-17th, 2006 in Denver, CO for three days of presentations/discussions, workshops, panels, and roundtables. Topics will focus on creating culturally responsive educational systems to assure equity in educational outcomes for all students and become the vehicle for eliminating the disproportionate representation of culturally and linguistically diverse

students in special education. Keynote speakers include Alfredo Artiles, Beth Harry, Joe Johnson, Janette Klingner, Elizabeth Kozleski, Peggy McIntosh, and Glenn Singleton. There will be over **75** concurrent sessions from a diverse range of perspectives. Presentations will be given by school, district, and state department teams, as well as Universities and TA Centers.

Make sure to visit NCCRESt's website at [www.nccrest.org](http://www.nccrest.org) to register for the National Forum, *Creating Opportunities to Learn: A Forum for Addressing Disproportionality*. Watch our site for updates that will include additional keynote speakers, pre conference workshops, and National Partners, including The National Institute for Urban School Improvement (NIUSI), and other National Technical Assistance Organizations. We have also just uploaded a list of all the concurrent session topics and presenters as well as a schedule of presentations.

Please spread the word about this exciting conference and disseminate this information to any interested parties in your network. We are looking forward to seeing you there and appreciate your help in making this an extraordinary event.

Questions? Email [nccrest@cudenver.edu](mailto:nccrest@cudenver.edu)

**ACCOMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ON STATE ASSESSMENTS: WHAT WORKS?** This conference is co-sponsored by ETS, the College Board, the Council for Exceptional Children, and the National Institute for Urban School Improvement (NIUSI). It will be on March 19-21, 2006 in Savannah, GA. The purpose of this event is to provide a forum for practitioners and leading researchers in the disabilities fields to discuss the latest issues. State testing directors, school administrators, guidance counselors, special education coordinators and instructors, and researchers are encouraged to attend. For more information about this conference please visit this link <http://www.ets.org/accommodationsconference> or go to our site [www.nccrest.org](http://www.nccrest.org) and click on events.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**GLENN SINGLETON:** Glenn Singleton began his career as an Ivy League admission director. In 1992, he founded Pacific Educational Group, Inc. (PEG) to more closely support families in their transitions within and between K-12 and higher education. His company later grew into its intended mission of addressing systemic issues of educational inequity by providing guidance to districts as to how to meet the needs of underserved student of color populations.



He teaches a graduate seminar on educational equity at the University of California, Berkeley and is an adjunct professor of educational leadership at San José State University. Singleton is a nationally recognized keynote speaker and consultant to a variety of educational consortia, school reform and support provider organizations. Singleton currently resides in San Francisco, California. He serves on the Board of Advisors for the Bay Area Coalition of Equitable Schools. Singleton is the founder of the Foundation for a College Education and serves on the Advisory Board.

Glenn Singleton will be presenting as a keynote speaker at NCCRESt's National Forum on Disproportionality on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. He will be discussing issues of race and racism in school systems. To register for this conference go to...

<http://www.nccrest.org/events/disproportionality.html>

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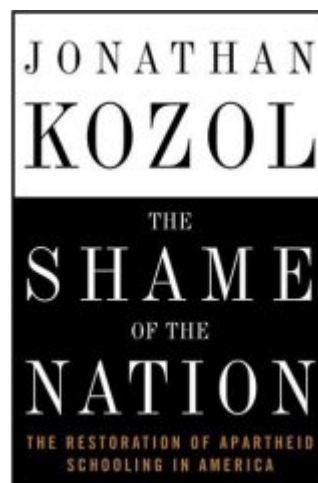
## RECOMMENDED READINGS

The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America

by Jonathan Kozol

“The nation needs to be confronted with the crime that we’re committing and the promises we are betraying. This is a book about betrayal of the young, who have no power to defend themselves. It is not intended to make readers comfortable.”

Over the past several years, Jonathan Kozol has visited nearly 60 public schools. Virtually everywhere, he finds that conditions have grown worse for inner-city children in the 15 years since federal courts began dismantling the landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. First, a state of nearly absolute apartheid now prevails in thousands of our schools. The segregation of black children has reverted to a level that the nation has not seen since 1968. Few of the students in these schools know white children any longer. Second, a protomilitary form of discipline has now emerged, modeled on stick-and-carrot methods of behavioral control traditionally used in prisons but targeted exclusively at black and Hispanic children. And third, as high-stakes testing takes on pathological and punitive dimensions, liberal education in our inner-city schools has been increasingly replaced by culturally barren and robotic methods of instruction that would be rejected out of hand by schools that serve the mainstream of society.



Filled with the passionate voices of children and their teachers and some of the most revered and trusted leaders in the black community, *The Shame of the Nation* is a triumph of firsthand reporting that pays tribute to those undefeated educators who persist against the odds, but directly challenges the chilling practices now being forced upon our urban systems by the Bush administration. In their place, Kozol offers a humane, dramatic challenge to our nation to fulfill at last the promise made some 50 years ago to all our youngest citizens.

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## TOOLS YOU CAN USE

**NCCREST'S PRACTITIONER BRIEF IN SPANISH** Practitioner Briefs are brief, highly readable pamphlets that explain research and its application to specific practices, roles, or policies that impact the extent to which disproportionality is experienced by children and their families.

NCCREST has just uploaded a new Practitioner Brief in Spanish, *Haciendo frente a la sobrerrepresentación de los estudiantes de origen cultural y lingüístico diverso en la educación especial: Pautas para los padres.*, to our website. It is also available in English as *Addressing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students: Overrepresentation in Special Education: Guidelines for Parents*. To view this document visit our website [www.nccrest.org](http://www.nccrest.org) select 'Resources and Publications' then 'Practitioner Briefs'.

## **NIUSI ONPOINTS**

NIUSI's OnPoint series are brief discussions of critical issues in urban education. These publications have been written by a variety of researchers, practitioners, and family members about specific practices that support inclusive schooling. These OnPoints should help everyone link theories and practices and develop a framework for exploring or informing practice as well as examples of how the theory is translated into practice that is effective and produces learning results for students. All OnPoints are distillations of research, so all references are listed at the end if you want to read more about a particular topic.

### **FEATURED ONPOINT: PRINCIPALS OF INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS**

This OnPoint was written by Christine Salisbury from the University of Illinois-Chicago and Gail McGregor from the University of Montana. In this OnPoint they discuss the role of principals in building a school's capacity to serve all learners well, and the strategies and resources that successful principals use to develop an inclusive learning community in urban schools. Principals influential in helping students, staff, and parents think and act more inclusively. They serve as catalysts for the key stakeholders. Their role is to guide and support the course of change, drawing together the resources and people necessary to be successful. This OnPoint also walks the reader through the process of adopting inclusive schooling practices.

This OnPoint along with many others is now available on our website at [www.urbanschools.org](http://www.urbanschools.org). Click on 'Publications' then 'OnPoints' or follow this link [Principals of Inclusive Schools](#). We have revamped the OnPoint look and developed two different formats. One, the online reader version, is for easier viewing at your personal computer. The other, the printer ready version, is for organizations to be able to create professional quality materials simply by sending this document to a professional printer.

We are excited to share these new products and look forward to any feedback you may have.

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## **RESEARCH BASED PRODUCTS**

Access to the General Education Curriculum, September 2005

By Eileen Ahearn

This document is a brief policy analysis recently prepared by Eileen Ahearn. It contains the results of a survey of state directors of special education on the status of strategies related to improving access for students with disabilities to the general education curriculum. This project was a collaboration between Project Forum at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

To view the document click [here](#).

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## FEATURED STATE WORK *WISCONSIN*

Wisconsin distributed a request for proposals to districts to work on disproportionality and culturally responsive educational systems offering a \$5,000 stipend to selected LEAs. Nine districts were selected and invited to a two day summer institute workshop in August with sessions focused on various aspects of disproportionality, culturally responsive educational practices and school improvement. The participating districts included: Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Appleton, Kenosha, Racine, Janesville, Beloit, and a northern county district. The workshop participants included these 9 districts and representatives from the 12 Central Education Service Agencies (CESA) along with community partners, state workers, and disproportionality task group members. The institute objectives were to help districts develop proposals and activities for the work of the mini-grants.



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## FEATURED DISTRICT WORK *MIAMI-DADE*

Cathy Orlando of the Inclusive Schools Initiative is the synergy site liaison for the Miami-Dade Schools. As a statewide structure for professional development, The Initiative provides services to many schools. By the end of 2005, 160 school leadership teams will be trained in staffing and scheduling processes as part of the ALL Students ALL School Initiative. The Initiative is aimed at implementing inclusive models. Practitioner level training of the "Changing Role of the ESE teacher" was scheduled for the General Education/ESE partnerships. District-wide, Miami-Dade hopes to have SWD students in least restrictive environments by the start of the school year.



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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."  
-Mahatma Gandhi

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## FEATURED WEBSITES

<http://knowledgeloom.org> The Knowledge Loom is a place for educators worldwide to:

- Review research that identifies promising practices related to various themes.
- View stories about the practices in real schools/districts.
- Learn to replicate the success of these practices in your own organization.
- Add your own stories, knowledge, questions to the collections.
- Participate in online events and discussions.

- Discover supporting organizations and resources, including annotated Web links.

[www.ideapartnership.org](http://www.ideapartnership.org) This site reflects the collaborative work of more than 55 national organizations, as well as technical assistance providers, and State and local organizations and agencies. The first page always has the most important new information about IDEA 2004 and NCLB. The IDEA Partnership is dedicated to improving outcomes for students and youth with disabilities by joining state agencies and stakeholders through shared work and learning. Check out their site for more information.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***ALLIANCE FOR PARENT CENTERS 9TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE***

Parents United for Children with Disabilities: Together We Can Do So Much!

Washington DC, January 25-27, 2006

[www.taalliance.org/conference/](http://www.taalliance.org/conference/)

### ***NCCREST'S NATIONAL FORUM ON DISPROPORTIONALITY***

Creating Opportunities to Learn: A Forum for Addressing Disproportionality

Denver, Colorado, February 15-17, 2006

[www.nccrest.org/events/disproportionality.html](http://www.nccrest.org/events/disproportionality.html)

### ***CO-SPONSORED BY ETS, THE COLLEGE BOARD, THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN, AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR URBAN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (NIUSI)***

Accommodating Students With Disabilities on State Assessments: What Works?

Savannah, Georgia, March 19-21, 2006

<http://www.ets.org/accommodationsconference>

### ***THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION***

26th Annual Excellence in Education Conference: Making Equity Work- Engaging All Students for High Achievement

Lincoln, Nebraska, March 29-30, 2006

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/cspd/Conference/index.htm>

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