

**STATEMENT BY JOEL KLEIN,
CO-FOUNDER OF THE EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT
AND NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR**

Education Equality Project (EEP) Co-Founder and New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, today released the following statement on new findings that educational inequality persists among students of different races and ethnicities:

The recently released National Center for Education Statistics study quantified what has been clear anecdotally for years – schools in America are not providing an equal education for all students – particularly students of color. The inequity suffered by African-American and Latino students is inexcusable in a nation that ended school segregation 55 years ago.

Eliminating the education achievement gap is the foremost civil rights issue of our time, and the Education Equality Project is dedicated to this mission. When our education system cannot offer a high quality school to children living in low-income, African-American, and Latino neighborhoods, it is an injustice that must be corrected.

Gains by some students of color in a handful of states show that the gap can be closed, but this tiny patchwork of success also underscores how far we still need to go. Equality should not be bound by geography.

The placement of good teachers contributes to inequitable outcomes for students. Schools where African-American and Latino students are the majority receive less qualified teachers. Every student deserves to be encouraged to succeed by a great teacher. Where high expectations and standards along with focused and encouraging instruction characterize schools, progress has been made by both students of color and white students.

The NCES findings are not a surprise. What is surprising is that one-week after their release, little is being done by many educators, parents, students, and elected officials in response.

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The NCES study can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/gaps/>

ABOUT EDUCATION EQUALITY PROJECT

The Education Equality Project is leading a civil rights movement to eliminate the racial and ethnic achievement gap in public education by working to create an effective school for every child. www.edequality.org

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