

On December 14, 2009, Congressman Bobby Scott convened a summit to discuss the legal and legislative alternatives to eliminate the achievement gap. Below are background information and a link to video coverage by C-SPAN of the summit.

Video

- [C-SPAN Coverage](#)

Panel 1: The Past: Establishing a Foundation

This panel will address the following questions: What are the legal precedents set in *Brown v Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) (ending racial segregation in public schools), *PARC v. State of Pennsylvania*, 343 F.Supp. 279 (E.D. Pa. 1972) (requiring free and appropriate education of children with disabilities) and *Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia*, 348 F.Supp. 866 (D.D.C. 1972) (requiring free and appropriate education of children with disabilities)? Can these precedents be applied to a consistent and acknowledged pattern of under-educating low-income and minority students? Does the very existence of an achievement gap demonstrate that low-income and minority children have been deprived of equal educational opportunities in violation of the U.S. Constitution?

Panelists:

- Nancy Jones, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division, Congressional Research Service
- Katherine Beh Neas, Vice President, Government Relations, Easter Seals
- Kathleen Boundy, Co-Director, Center for Law and Education

- John Brittain, Visiting Professor of Law, The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law
- Tanya Clay House, Public Policy Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Veronica Rivera, Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- J. Robert Carr, Executive Director, National Bar Association
- Cynthia Robbins, Co-Founder, Racial Justice Initiative, TimeBanks USA

Panel 2: The Present: Demonstrating the Achievement Gap

This panel will address the following questions: What is the current status of educational achievement by socio-economic, racial and ethnic status? What are the short- and long-term disadvantages inflicted on low-income and minority students who are victims of the achievement gap?

Panelists:

- Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau
- John Payton, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
- David J. Goldberg, Senior Counsel and Senior Policy Analyst, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
- Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund
- Russlynn H. Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

Panel 3: The Future: Where We Go From Here

This panel will address the following questions: Is it possible to eliminate the achievement gap? Are there cost-effective alternatives to present government policies that would result in the elimination, or at least a significant reduction, of the achievement gap? How do we determine when the achievement gap has been closed: academic achievement; high school graduation; college entrance; something else? What type of legislation do we need to pass to shape a country in which all children receive a quality education and there is no longer an achievement gap based on economic status, race or ethnicity?

Panelists:

- Roberto Rodríguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, White House Domestic Policy Counsel
- Governor Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education
- Dr. LaRuth Gray, Government Relations and Legislative Liaison, National Alliance of Black School Educators and Scholar in Residence, New York University
- Delia Pompa, Vice President for Education, National Council of La Raza
- Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Member of the Board of Directors, National Council on Educating Black Children and Professor, Stanford University School of Education
- Rorng Sorn, Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia
- Dr. Carol Brunson Day, President, National Black Child Development Institute
- Lillian Sparks, Executive Director, National Indian Education Association
- Lily Eskelsen, Vice President, National Education Association
- Sharon Lewis, Senior Disability Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor
- Amy Wilkins, Principal Partner, The Education Trust
- Dan Cardinali, President, Communities in Schools

Additional Background Info

- [Summit Agenda](#)
- [Panelist Bios](#)
- [Rep. Bobby Scott's PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Dr. Linda Darling Hammond's PowerPoint Presentation \(Panel 3\)](#)
- [Dan Cardinali's PowerPoint Presentation \(Panel 3\)](#)