



**The National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials  
Educational Fund**

*presents*

**NALEO Education Leadership Initiative**

**Policy Institute on  
*High School Equity***

**May 2 – 4, 2008**

**Doubletree Hotel  
1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005**

*Funded by*  
**The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

***PRELIMINARY DRAFT AGENDA***

**Friday, May 2, 2008**

**2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Registration**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Policy Institute Opening and Overview**

**4:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Opening Keynote Address:**

**High School Equity: A Moral Imperative for America’s Students**

America has long held out the promise of an appropriate public education for all, but we are not meeting this promise for millions of our children, and the consequences for these students and the nation are enormous. Sadly, the nation’s public high schools are graduating only about half of their African American and American Indian students and just over 50 percent of Latino students. About 2,000 of the nation’s 22,000 public high schools produce roughly half of the nation’s high school dropouts, and not surprisingly, these “dropout factories” serve mostly students of color. This Opening Keynote Address focuses on how Congress is working to ensure No Child Left Behind (NCLB) prepares *every* high school student for college, work and life.

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Session I: Diplomas Count: Making All Students Proficient and Prepared for College and Work**

Currently, only about half of students who graduate are prepared to be successful in college. Not only are high school students not given the skills necessary for success in the workplace, but most of those who attend college have to take remedial education courses because they do not have the basic skills they should have mastered in high school. States and districts can work in partnership with schools and communities to restore the value and utility of a high school diploma. Aligning state standards with college and work readiness benchmarks is key to achieving this goal. This session highlights the policies to help promote proficiency and preparedness and gives elected officials the tools necessary to make them possible.

**6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Opening Reception**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Registration & Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Session II: Accountability Matters: How to Hold High Schools Accountable for Student Success**

High schools that are working to prepare students for college and work should be held accountable for meeting this expectation for all students equally. Presently, there are few mechanisms for making sure high schools accomplish this mission uniformly across the nation. During this session, elected officials will learn how they can create a well-designed accountability system to help communities ensure that schools are serving their children well.

**11:00 – 12:30 p.m.**

**Strategy Session**

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Keynote Luncheon**

**Student Voices: What High School Students Need & Want from Their High Schools in Order to Succeed**

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Session III: Quality Leaders + Quality Teachers = Quality Schools: How to Provide Students With the Excellent Leaders and Teachers They Need to Succeed**

Many of the high schools that serve Latinos and students of color have challenges that require strong and effective leaders. Unfortunately, the multiple challenges these schools face make it difficult to recruit and retain experienced principals and high-quality teachers. Yet, there are solutions for these circumstances. This session provides elected officials with recommendations for recruitment and retention as well as school leader and teacher effectiveness.

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Strategy Session**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Adjourn for the Day**

**Sunday, May 4, 2008**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Breakfast Buffet**

**Session IV: Schools for a New Society: How to Redesign High Schools for Student Success and the Global Economy**

American high schools were designed more than a century ago to imitate a factory model that only required a fraction of students to graduate and go on to college. Although the world has changed, our high schools have largely stayed the same. The future success of our society requires that all students graduate from high school well prepared for college and with the skills necessary for responsible citizenship and career success in the new global economy.

**9:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Session V & Strategy Session: The Campaign for High School Equity and You: From Knowledge to Action**

Before engaging in policy action, Latino elected official must be strategic about what they hope to achieve. What policy will help solve the problem and who has the power to make that change? Being clear about this goal will aid in developing a clear and effective message strategy. Beyond the role of policymaker, elected officials can serve as advocates for policy change by convening key decision makers, supporting policy solutions, and building leadership and momentum around the issue. With the goal of developing effective messages and strengthening spokesperson skills, this strategy session will include activities to facilitate elected officials' ability to effectively make the case regarding high school equity, whether speaking with the news media or presenting policy proposals to constituents and colleagues.

**Noon**

**Closing Remarks**