

# Preparing Teachers for Poverty's Challenges

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# Some of public education's greatest challenges

- Schools becoming more segregated
- Students becoming more diverse
- Curricular focus continually narrowing
- Students graduating at abysmal rates

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# Schools More Segregated

Some of the most segregated schools in the country are named for civil rights leaders, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, 51 years after the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown* that separate educational facilities are "inherently unequal."

Jonathan Kozol, 2005

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# Achievement gap between cities and suburbs

The likelihood that a ninth-grader in any one of the nation's biggest cities will graduate four years later amounts to a coin toss — not much better than a 50-50 chance.

Buffalo is no exception.

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# Earnings payoff relative to a non-high school diploma holder

Education Level	Lifetime Earnings	Earnings Payoff
Less than a high school diploma	\$993,466	
High school graduate	\$1,298,316	\$304,850
Some College/No degree	\$1,462,379	\$468,913
2-Year Degree	\$1,527,582	\$534,116
4-Year Degree	\$2,173,417	\$1,179,951
Master's Degree	\$2,312,426	\$1,318,960
Doctorate/Professional Degree	\$2,907,904	\$1,914,438

**Source:** *Employment Policy Foundation's Analysis of March 2003 Current Population Survey Data*

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# Wealth distribution in the United States

Income Level	Total Wealth for the Nation
Highest 20%	52.2%
Lowest 20%	4.2%

The wealthiest 1% of people in this country controlled 38% of our total wealth as of 2003, up from 22% in 1976.

From Edward Wolff (2003) *The Wealth*

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# Graduation Rates

The overall national public high school graduation rate for the class of 2003 was 70 percent. There is a wide disparity in the public high school graduation rates of white and minority students:

- 78% for white students
- 72% for Asian students
- 55% for African-American students
- 53% for Hispanic students.
- For African American and Hispanic males the gap is even larger and less than half of these young men finish high school (Greene & Winters, 2006)

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# Curriculum & What Counts as Education Narrows

Training students for the ever-changing workplace and preparing them for high stakes testing has overwhelmed the literacy, civic, and morals goals that have historically guided public education.

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# Poverty Impacts Student Success

- **Every** testing program shows the tight correlation between scores and family income.
- **Poverty dwarfs the impact made by schools and teachers.**

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# The Times They are a Changing

“If poverty is a disease that infects an entire community in the form of unemployment, violence, failing schools, and broken homes, then we can’t just treat those symptoms in isolation; we have to heal the entire community.” —  
Presidential Candidate Barack Obama,  
August 6, 2008

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# Cradle-to-Career Programs

- Seek to provide children living in poverty with a high-quality birth-to-employment education through a continuum of wrap-around services that include health, social and economic supports in addition to school.
- School-family-community partnerships and data-tracking of student progress are central to the cradle-to-career model, which asks not just educators but all community service providers to take responsibility for student outcomes in an effort to break what the Children's Defense Fund terms the "cradle to prison pipeline" of many urban communities.

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# Center for Excellence in Urban and Rural Education

CEURE collaborates with school districts, collegiate partners, and community stakeholders to improve the educational and life outcomes of children attending urban and rural schools. The center supports efforts to **recruit, educate, and retain** teachers to meet the needs of culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse children.

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# Embracing Partnerships



In the 2012 – 13 school year the 76 teacher preparation programs that comprise the Teacher Education Unit at Buffalo State had **active partnerships more than 300 schools** in districts throughout the western and central regions of New York. These numbers do not include traditional field placement and student teaching internships.

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# I am College Bound

First and second graders from three BPS schools learn about setting their sights on college and explore science as a career.



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# Supplemental Education Services



- Undergraduate education majors work under the supervision of certified reading teachers providing direct instruction and support through explicit skill and strategy development, writing, and independent reading across a broad range of topics and based on each child's learning needs. Tutors work with students and their families to develop an individualized learning plan and conduct both formal and informal assessments in order to monitor and communicate student progress to parents and teachers.

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# Buffalo Urban Arts Teachers Academy



Buffalo Urban Arts Teachers Academy (BUATA) is a model of professional development that strengthens the conceptual knowledge and pedagogical skills of art and music educators in the BPS. It is an induction program for novice teachers and a mentoring program for experienced teachers. A steering group of district administrators, curriculum supervisors, a mentoring specialist, higher education faculty, and an experienced project evaluator leads the project.

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# Buffalo State Community Academic Center



- Thanks to a generous gift from Buffalo State supporters Eleanore Woods Beals, '50, and her husband, Vaughn Beals, the university will soon open the doors to the new Buffalo State Community Academic Center, located at 214 Grant Street.
- Operated collaboratively by Buffalo State's Center for Excellence in Rural and Urban Education and the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, the Community Academic Center's central mission will **be to coordinate and provide cradle-to-career educational support** programming for youth and families on Buffalo's West Side. Activities and offerings may include tutoring, literacy coaching, after-school art classes, children's story hours, as well as English as a second language programs for Buffalo's growing refugee community.

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