

<p>Class Size Reduction</p>	<p>“Race To the Top” &amp; corporate-style education reforms</p>
<p>Research shows demonstrated achievement gains, higher graduation rates, more engagement and lower disciplinary rates where class sizes are reduced.</p>	<p>Key elements including high stakes testing and privatization (expansion of charter schools and online learning) have no backing in research or experience.</p>
<p>Institute of Education Sciences, research arm of the US Dept. of Education, cites class size reduction as one of four reforms proven to work through rigorous evidence.</p>	<p>Nat. Acad. of Sciences issued two reports showing no evidence that high stakes testing will improve schools, no backing for and may have damaging effects, and numerous studies show teacher merit pay doesn't work. Most authoritative analysis of charter schools (CREDO) shows charters on average have no better results. Online K12 learning has no research support whatsoever.</p>
<p>Finland, with greatest gains on international comparisons like the PISA, turned around school system in 1970's when reduced class size.</p>	<p>Finland has no standardized testing until final years of HS (for college entrance decisions); in other grades, only gives standardized exams to small samples of students.</p>
<p>Class size reduction supported by public school teachers and parents—stakeholder groups closest to conditions on the ground.</p>	<p>Corporate reforms pushed by “Billionaire Boys Club” and hedge funders like closing schools rather than improving them and more high-stakes testing, have little public support, according to PDK/Gallup poll.</p>
<p>Smaller classes tend to decrease teacher attrition rates and lead to a more experienced, effective teaching force</p>	<p>Teacher evaluations tied to unreliable test scores causes good teachers to become demoralized and/or lose jobs</p>
<p>Smaller classes foster deeper reflection, creativity, inventiveness, and learning through questioning, discussion and debate.</p>	<p>High stakes testing leads to cheating and/or excessive test prep, narrowing of curriculum, rote learning, and weakens creative thinking and inventiveness critical for economic growth. <b>Since 1990, for first time, American creativity declining, most seriously among children in K-6<sup>th</sup> grades.</b></p>
<p>Greatest benefits of class size reduction received by students who need them the most: low-income, minority students. This is why reform is one of few proven to significantly narrow the achievement gap</p>	<p>Competition, privatization &amp; high stakes testing hurts at-risk students most; as charter schools tend to exclude or push out struggling students. High stakes testing labels schools and teachers as failing where there is highest concentration of need, unfairly causing these schools to be closed or teachers to be fired, leading to massive dislocation and soaring dropout rates.</p>

