Introduction

Improving inner city schools, especially high schools, and staffing these schools with good teachers are two of the greatest challenges facing American education. In the spring of 2006, the London Challenge caught my attention because it directly addresses both problems with seeming success.

In the summer of 2006, the Center on Education Policy was fortunate to have as an intern Rachel Shatten, a student at Tufts University. I asked Ms. Shatten to learn about the London Challenge. This paper, describing the project and its results, is the product of her work.

Following Ms. Shatten’s paper are two short essays commenting on the paper as well as on the Challenge itself. Alan Ruby, now teaching at the University of Pennsylvania and formerly a key education leader in Australia, and Graham Downs, the former president of the Council for Basic Education, graciously provided these commentaries.

The Center on Education Policy presents this material with the hope that we in the United States can learn from the United Kingdom’s experiences. We also hope that we too can show the political will to address the problems facing inner city schools as forcefully as has the government in the U.K.

The Center on Education Policy would like to thank Roseanna King for her assistance in understanding various aspects of the London Challenge.

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