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Closing the Achievement Gap: Are the Common Core Standards the Answer?

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EXPLORER CAFÉ
APRIL 8, 2015

CAMP RULES:

You have one week to have all children pass a swim test.

Children are ages 10-14 with varying swimming experience.

You are a qualified, experienced instructor; want to instill love of swimming

If most children don't pass, you might lose your job.

- **Your Dream Job?**



What do you do?

How do you plan to teach everyone to meet the same goal?

What are the benefits and drawbacks to this type of approach?

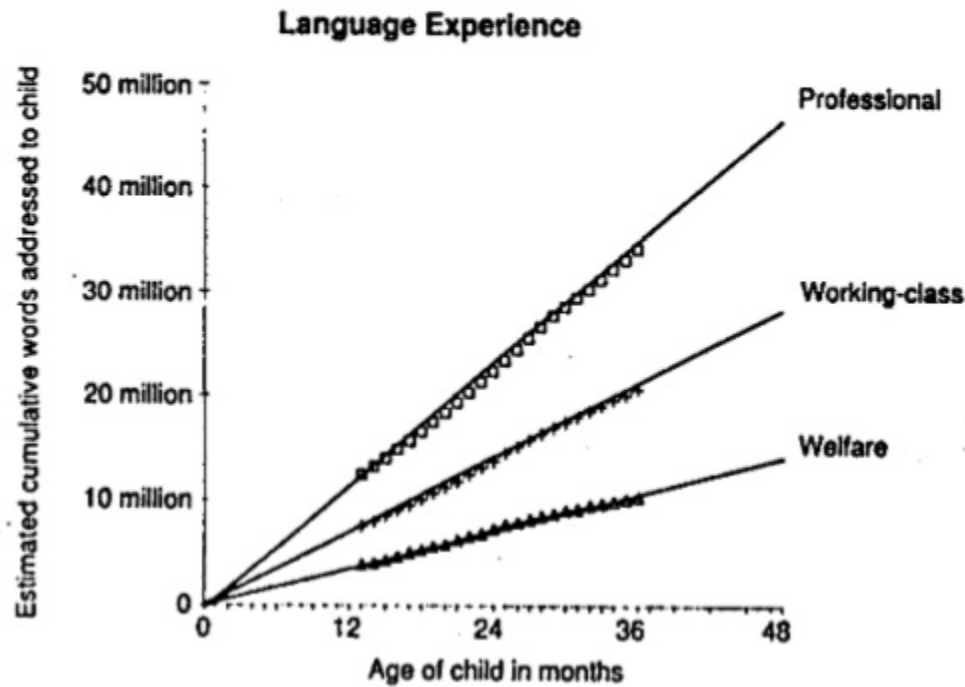
What do you think might happen?

Achievement gaps start early



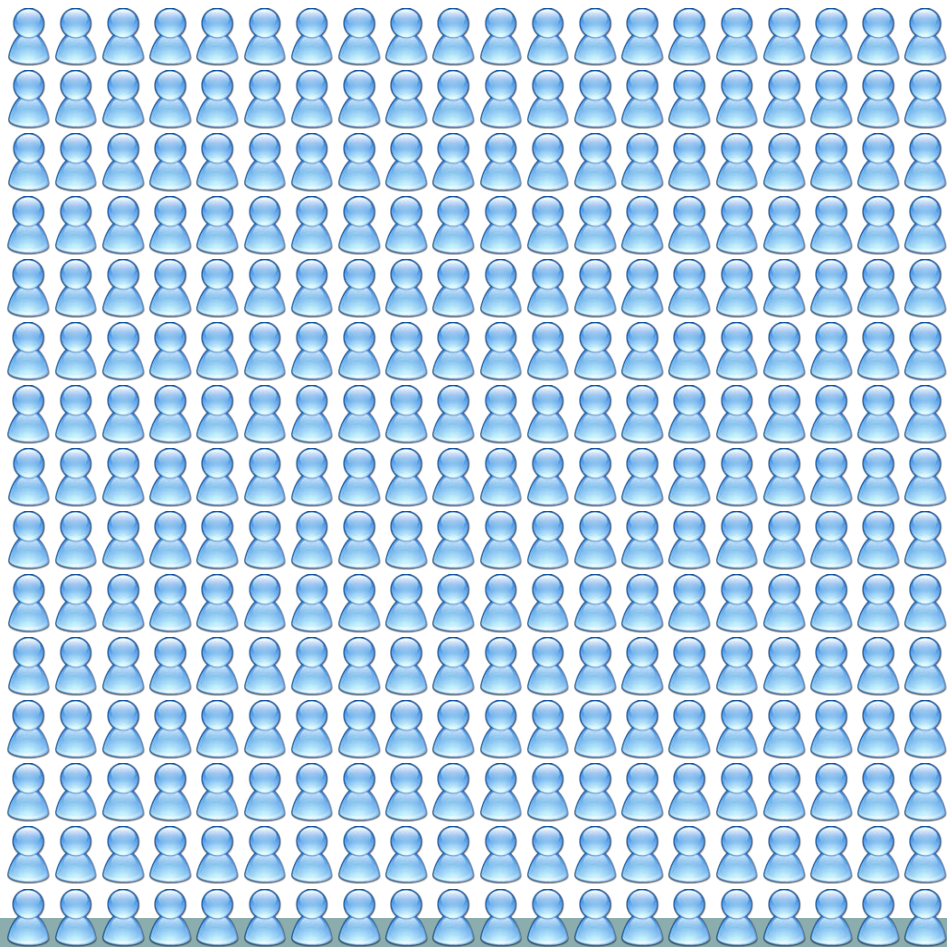
30 Million Word Gap Study

(Hart & Risely 1995)



Book Resources

North Philadelphia



Chestnut Hill



What are your thoughts?



- **Think about your own educational experience. When you arrived at college, did you feel prepared? Were you ready? Why or Why not?**
- **What do you think makes for a quality education?**

Common Core State Standards



- A set of national standards (English Language Arts and Mathematics) developed by the National Governor's Association, The Council of Chief State School Officers, and Achieve Inc.

Timeline



- 2008 Congress gave the US Department of Education \$5 Billion to promote “reform” in education.... “Race to the Top”
- 2009 CCSS Drafted
- 2010 Adopted by states...while still in draft form
- 2105 many states questioning CCSS

Why the controversy?



- Teachers evaluated on student test scores – think back to being the swim coach...is this reasonable? Is it fair?
- Unknown cost – originally estimated at \$4.5 Billion...estimates now exceed \$7 Billion and counting
- No pilot program – how do we know if the standards are appropriate? \$7 Billion and counting and we don't know if it works?
- Internationally benchmarked – what *exactly* does this mean?
- Adopting standards means lowering standards for some states – is that fair?
- States must agree to increase the number of private charters – is this what “reform” means?
- Data mining – collecting information on children without parental consent?
-the list goes on and on.....