

What's Worth Fighting For in Education?

MWOCLC, 2011

The His/Herstorical Battlefield

How Do You Fight in this age and time?

With Whom?

Think Linkages between Learning and meeting Basic Life Needs

- Food
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Transportation
- Health **physical**
- Health **mental/emotional**
- Safety
- Recreation
- Communication
- **Work**

One Fighting Style is Community Driven

A body that demonstrates:

- shared decision-making,
- shared resources,
- shared accountability, and
- shared outcomes among participating organizations.

An ongoing, multi-sector collaborative effort is consistently improved, based on the progress made toward achieving the stated outcomes, and all participants understand and revise their contributions, roles, and responsibilities based on what is learned from data over time.

Think A P-20 Educational Continuum

Early Childhood

Elementary Years

Out of School/After School Educational
Programming

Middle School

High School

Post Secondary Bachelors, Masters,
Doctorate

Why Fight???????

Just a few reasons:

Research indicating that young African American children are disconnecting from classroom learning by the third grade

Overrepresentation of African American Children in Special Education

Overrepresentation of African American Children who are being suspended and expelled

A majority of classroom educators (k-12) who are white females and are **not culturally competent** and know little about culturally relevant pedagogy

Far too low retention and graduation rates for AA males and females from PWI

Far too low numbers of African Americans preparing for STEM fields

Indiana African American Male Graduation & Completion Types: 2009-10

CORP#	Corporation Name	2009-10	Completion		12th Grade	Enrollment
		4-Year	without a	Dropout/	Still In	
		Graduation Rate	Diploma	Unknown	School	
235	Fort Wayne Community Schools	75.09%	36	5	178	231
365	Bartholomew Con School Corp	63.64%	13	2	28	9
1010	Greater Clark County Schools	67.31%	12	4	67	50
1970	Muncie Community Schools	85.11%	14		16	51
2305	Elkhart Community Schools	54.00%	17	10	82	67
2400	New Albany-Floyd Co Con Sch	77.42%	6	1	76	35
2865	Marion Community Schools	50.00%	10	14	22	28
3500	Kokomo-Center Twp Con Sch	85.71%	5		33	38
4600	Merrillville Community School	89.47%	2	6	31	126
4670	School City of East Chicago	50.00%	4	11	79	77
4690	Gary Community School Corp	62.36%	13	28	163	363
4710	School City of Hammond	68.55%	26	7	93	93
4925	Michigan City Area Schools	57.14%	7	19	30	47
5275	Anderson Community School	39.19%	14	20	129	68
5385	Indianapolis Public Schools	50.38%	18	142	290	403
5740	Monroe County Com Sch Corp	65.00%	5	3	52	21
7205	South Bend Community Sch	58.87%	42	38	145	253
7855	Lafayette School Corporation	80.95%	4	1	60	22
7995	Evansville Vanderburgh Sch	70.43%	19	15	130	116
8030	Vigo County School Corp	71.88%	29	2	85	30
8385	Richmond Community Schools	42.11%		4	7	20

Black males are described as a group most “at-risk” for school failure; least likely to be considered gifted, more often to be placed in special education classrooms, suspended and expelled compared to other students.

What's Your Weapon of Choice?

Research/Data

The Visual and Performing Arts

Social Media

Back to our Question: What's worth Fighting For? So Much! Including:

- High Quality Early Childhood Education!
- Youth that are in Foster Care!
- Increasing the number of African American (in fact--all) teachers who are culturally competent!
- Community Schools

Aida Overton Walker, 1880-1914



“Unless we learn the lesson of self-appreciation and practice it, we shall spend our lives imitating other people and deprecating ourselves.”

Mari Evans, 1923 -

*“Education is the
jewel casting
brilliance into the
future.”*

