

The Equity Imperative: Education, Human Rights and Our Future

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Human Rights are Meaningless in and Unenforced in Many Nations

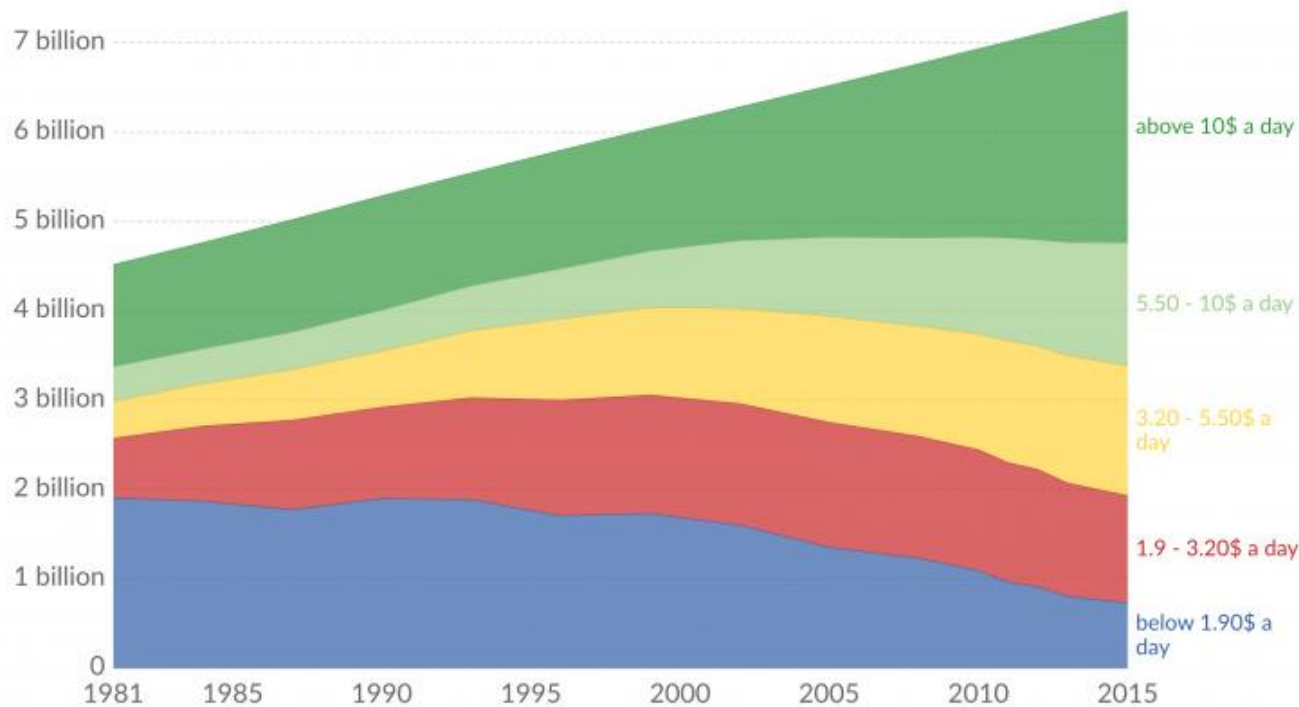
- Malcolm X - Human Right vs. Civil Rights
- Weak global institutions make human rights unenforceable
- Basic human rights are threatened by worsening conditions throughout the world
- Can education help to counter these trends?

Inequality and poverty are global problems

Distribution of population between different poverty thresholds, World

Our World
in Data

Poverty thresholds are all in 'international dollars' at constant 2011 PPP prices. This means all figures account for cross-country differences in price levels, as well as for inflation. Estimates rely on a combination of income and consumption data (see sources for details).

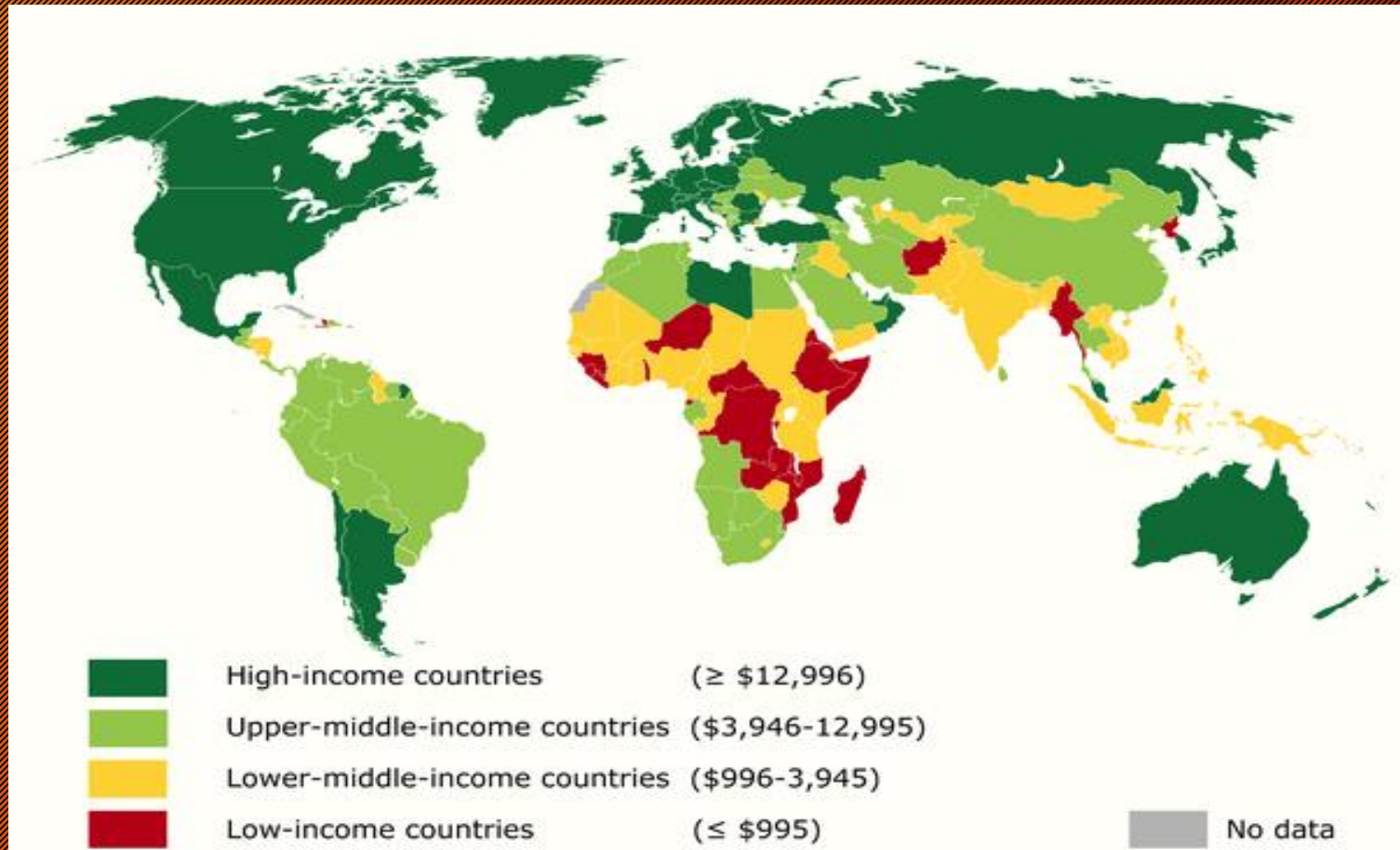


Source: World Bank, PovcalNet 2019

Note: Estimates for high-income countries are included, but are not always comparable with those from other countries because of differences between income and consumption data.

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We will continue to see migration from poor to rich countries



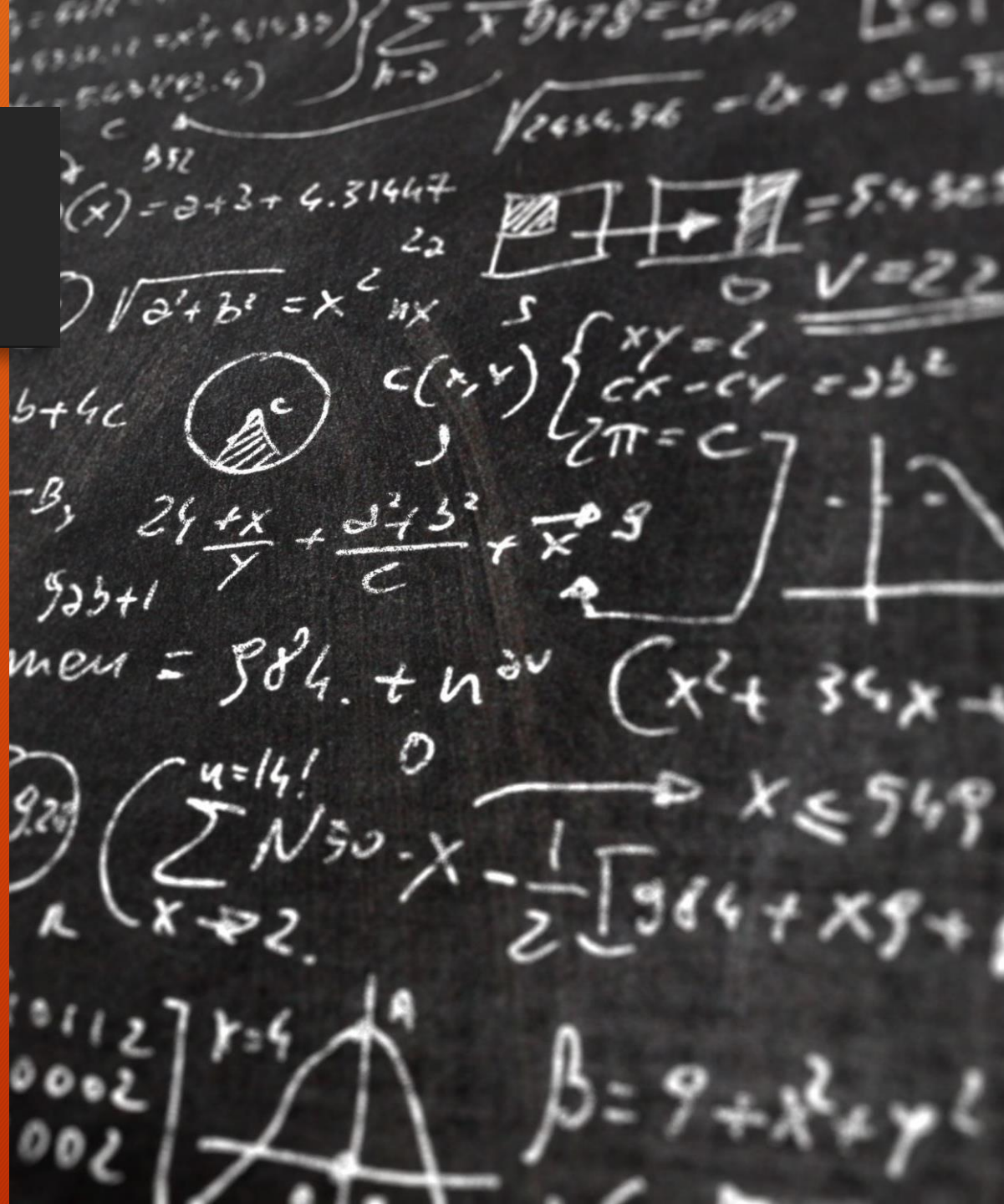


Environmental dangers worsen as climate change increases



The promise and potential of education as a resource

- Every problem we face can be thought of as an educational challenge. Education does not provide a means to fix problems quickly but with the right approach to teaching and learning we can shape how we respond to intractable problems.



• Paulo Freire: Education and empowerment

- Brazil's democratic opening - breaking from military rule with literacy and voting.

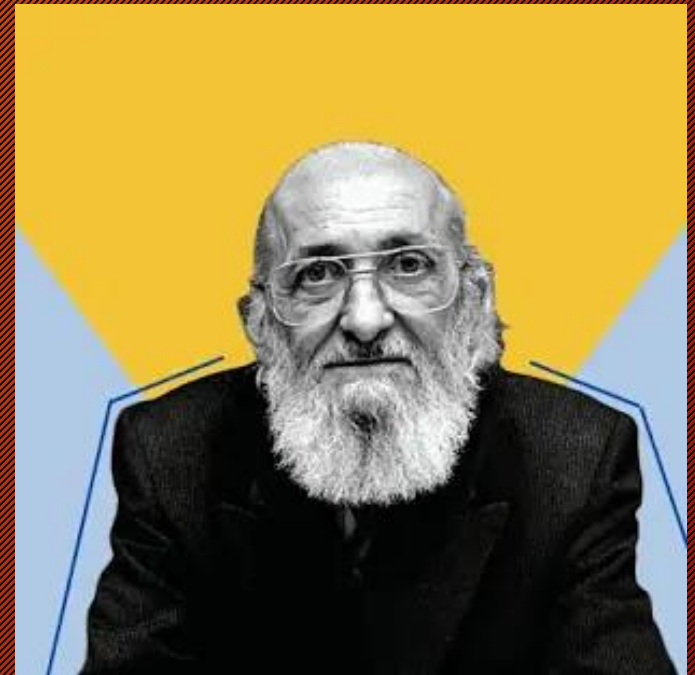
- Adult learners must learn to read

The word and the world.

Critical consciousness versus banking education.

Literacy campaigns to counter

Government power and manipulation.



According to the World Bank: Educating women and girls reduces poverty



Education can reduce crime and recidivism



Education can fight disease: Countering Ebola with trust and education



Education can build empathy and trust

“If people don’t trust you, they can hide a body, and you’ll never know,” Dr. Mosoka Fallah said. “And Ebola will keep spreading. They’ve got to trust you, but we don’t have the luxury of time.”

MISSION STATEMENT
OF
SAPPHIRE Rd- OPEN
DOOR OF HOPE
COMMUNITY CLINIC

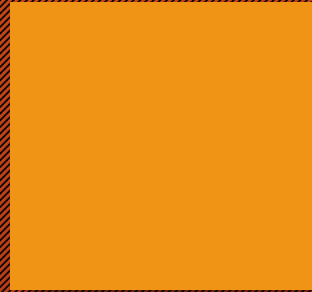
To uplift and
empower learners and
communities by providing
a holistic health service.

Our priority
areas are
Service
Prevention
Education
Care &
Advocacy









Fighting Apartheid through acts of solidarity and friendship

Nelson Mandela and his former prison guard Christo Brand

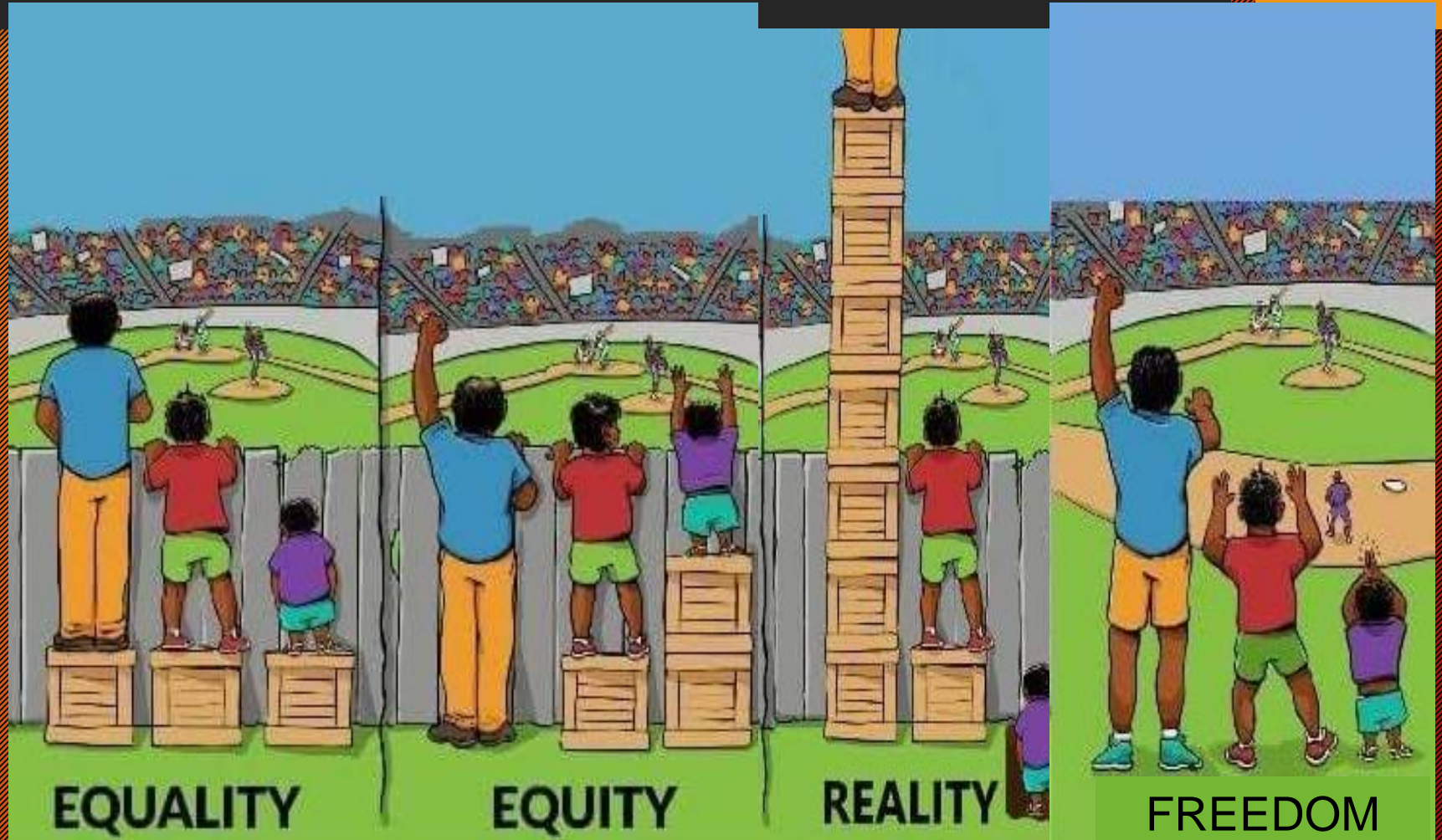


Equity must be central to human rights education.

What is equity?

- Equity is: Ensuring equal access to learning opportunities – Facilities, personnel
- Giving students the support need to be successful
 - Academic access and support
 - Addressing social and economic needs
- Recognizing that not all students are the same
 - Learning opportunities must respond to different needs and circumstances
- A societal investment in developing the talents of all students

Equality vs. Equity



The pursuit of equity requires identifying and eliminating common barriers

COMPLACENCY – tradition, inertia of the status quo

- Ignoring unmet student needs that hinder learning
- Lack of professional capacity
- Lack of commitment to invest needed resources – structural inequality
- Racial/linguistic/cultural bias/
- **An equity agenda must be focused on outcomes – academic and developmental**

Structural Racism Perpetuates Racial Inequality

- Structural racism is rooted in the history of racial domination, discrimination and ongoing marginalization of people of color
- Our economy reinforces racial disparities in education, health, income, etc.
- Environmental racism is a byproduct of structural racism and often results in racial disparities in health
- **Racism without racists** - even operative in institutions when people of color and liberals hold positions of authority, intention is irrelevant.
- Structural racism can be resisted through collective action.

Brockton scholarship winners 2016



King/Drew Science Magnet

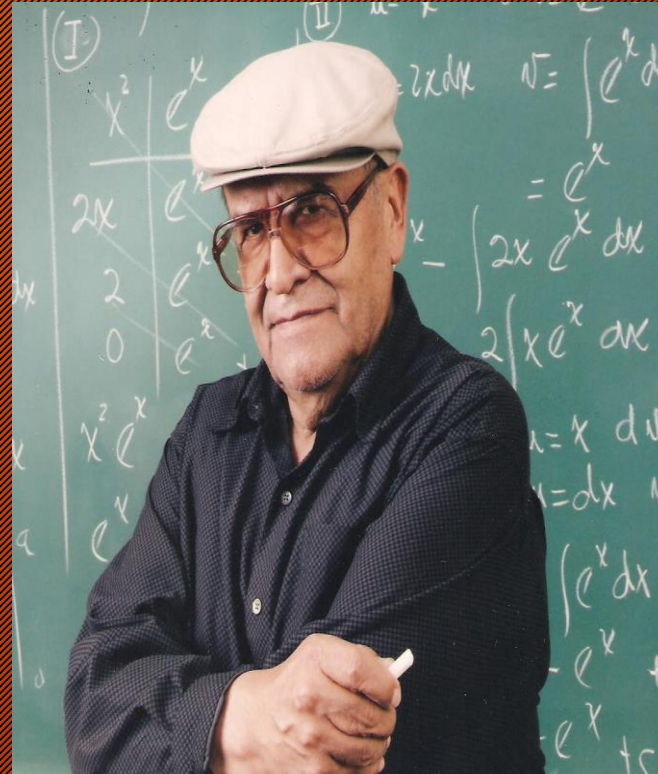
- King/Drew Science Magnet
- The Medicine and Science Careers Program provides a unique opportunity for students to access experience-based learning in environments including hospitals, clinics, research labs, and university facilities. Additionally, students actively develop connection with experts and professionals throughout the community, both locally and globally.



Educators Can Promote Human Rights and Equity by...

- **Cultivating Agency** - Individual and collective through collaborative problem solving and problem posing education.
 - Freire: Teach students to read the world.
- **Fostering Deeper Learning** - By developing critical thinking, problem solving, resourcefulness and curiosity.
- **Building social capital** - creating bonds based on trust and solidarity between schools and the communities they serve.

Roland Fryer vs Jaime Escalante



Where do we go from here: Chaos or community?

A nation that continues to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death... There is nothing to prevent us from paying adequate wages to schoolteachers, social workers and other servants of the public to ensure that we have the best available personnel in these positions which are charged with the responsibility of guiding our future generations... There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from remolding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.,

