Student Achievement and Athletics

- **Question:** Is there a relationship between academic performance and athletic participation?
- Students in high profile sports (sports that tend to draw more crowds and are more popular) tend to have better time management skills which translates to better performance academically.
- Students in athletics in high school tend to gravitate to fellow athletes socially, and they collectively hold higher educational and academic goals for themselves.
- Studies show that students who participate in athletics are more likely to continue their education into college.
- Student athletes gain certain personal disciplines and confidences while playing sports which transfers into academics, leading to better performance inside and outside of the classroom.

The Achievement Gap

- **Question:** What reforms help in closing the achievement gap in schools?
- High quality teachers who use creative teaching strategies and standards-based instruction, with a deep understanding of their students, effectively help in closing the achievement gap.
- Schools need to address the problem of socioeconomic status and the achievement gap through programs and professional development for teachers.
- Studies have shown that the more a student’s parents are involved in school activities, showing their support, the better the child performs academically in school.
- Schools need to collectively provide families and the community with opportunities of involvement in schools to aid in closing the achievement gap.