

# The Education Activist's Starter Kit

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A Collection of Resources  
for Active Participation

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# Organizations

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## **Badass Teachers Association**

[badassteacher.org](http://badassteacher.org)

The BATs were “created to give voice to every teacher who refuses to be blamed for the failure of our society to erase poverty and inequality through education.” The BATs give teachers a stronger voice by issuing statements and petitions against unethical policy, participating in demonstrations, and lending support to other pro-teacher movements.



## **FairTest: The National Center for Fair and Open Testing**

[fairtest.org](http://fairtest.org)

FairTest promotes fair, open, valid and educationally beneficial evaluations of students, teachers and schools and works to end the misuses and flaws of testing practices that impede those goals. Their site contains resources for taking action, connecting with other activists, learning about the issues, and following all relevant news from across the country.



## **The Network for Public Education**

[networkforpubliceducation.org](http://networkforpubliceducation.org)

An advocacy group whose goal is to fight to protect, preserve and strengthen our public school system. The group endorses political candidates who support a strong public school system, shares reports on grassroots movements, and provides materials to help educators and activists bring about positive change.



## **Newark Students Union**

[facebook.com/NewarkStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NewarkStudentsUnion)

See how the students do it: “The Newark Students Union is an organization founded by and for Newark students with the goals of protecting student rights, ensuring we receive a quality education, and empowering the student voice in the political process.”



## **Save Our Schools**

[saveourschoolsmarch.org](http://saveourschoolsmarch.org)

Save Our Schools is a grassroots movement dedicated to restoring educator, parent, student, and community influence over education policy and practice. The site offers a calendar of events, a library of resources, and plenty of ways to connect with other committed educators.



## **United Opt Out: The Movement to End Corporate Education Reform**

[unitedoptout.com](http://unitedoptout.com)

Everything you need to learn about and participate in the movement to opt out of high-stakes testing. The site includes a vast collection of resources for teachers, activists, parents, and students, including talking points on the issues, opt-out guides by state, and samples of opt-out letters.

# Blogs

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## The Answer Sheet

[washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet](http://washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet)

*Washington Post* reporter Valerie Strauss covers school reform, vouchers, and education policy.



## The José Vilson

[thejosevilson.com](http://thejosevilson.com)

New York math teacher and activist Vilson writes about race, education, and policy, and shares deeply personal accounts of his work at the intersection of all three.



## Diane Ravitch's Blog

[dianeravitch.net](http://dianeravitch.net)

Education historian and NYU education professor Ravitch provides news and commentary about developments in education reform.



## Living in Dialogue

[livingindialogue.com](http://livingindialogue.com)

Writer, retired educator, and education activist Anthony Cody shares this space with other writers who discuss critical issues related to public education in the United States and the world.



## EduShyster

[edushyster.com](http://edushyster.com)

The blog of freelance journalist and public education advocate Jennifer Berkshire, "chronicling the end of public education with a wry eye."



## Rethinking Schools Blog

[rethinkingschoolsblog.wordpress.com](http://rethinkingschoolsblog.wordpress.com)

Rethinking Schools is a non-profit, independent book and magazine publisher "advocating the reform of public schools, with an emphasis on urban schools and issues of equity and social justice."



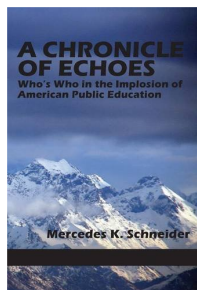
## I Am an Educator

[iameducator.com](http://iameducator.com)

History teacher and activist Jesse Hagopian's website "dedicated defending the humanity of the educator and a vision of education that contributes to creating a socially just society."

# Books

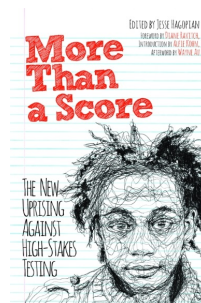
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## **A Chronicle of Echoes: Who's Who in the Implosion of American Public Education**

*Mercedes K. Schneider*

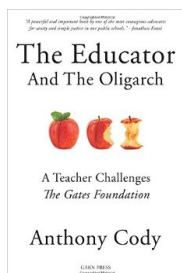
Whereas American public education is a democratic institution, its destruction is being choreographed by a few wealthy, well-positioned individuals and organizations. This book investigates and exposes the handful of people and institutions that are often working together to become the driving force behind destroying the community public school.



## **More Than a Score: The New Uprising Against High-Stakes Testing**

*Jesse Hagopian, editor*

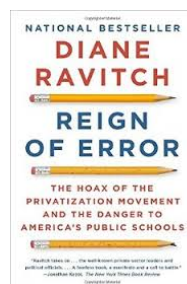
A collection of essays, poems, speeches, and interviews—accounts of personal courage and trenchant insights—from frontline fighters who are defying the corporate education reformers, often at great personal and professional risk, and fueling a national movement to reclaim and transform public education.



## **The Educator and the Oligarch: A Teacher Challenges the Gates Foundation**

*Anthony Cody*

From the Common Core to test-based teacher evaluation systems cropping up around the country, to the rapid expansion of semi-private charter schools, the Gates Foundation has had a huge, largely invisible influence on public education in 21st century America. Can a teacher challenge the wealthiest man in the world? Anthony Cody, who spent 24 years working in the high poverty schools of Oakland, California, has done so here.



## **Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools**

*Diane Ravitch*

An incisive, comprehensive look at today's American school system that argues against those who claim it is broken and beyond repair; an impassioned but reasoned call to stop the privatization movement that is draining students and funding from our public schools.

## Teachers' Unions

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**The American Federation of Teachers**  
[aft.org](http://aft.org)



**The National Education Association**  
[nea.org](http://nea.org)