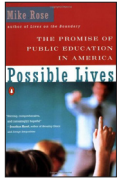


# Education Reform: Informational Resources

Please note that this resource list is provided solely for informational purposes. Inclusion on this list does not represent an endorsement by Teach For America.

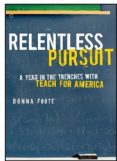
## BOOKS



### **Possible Lives: The Promise of Public Education in America**

*By Mike Rose*

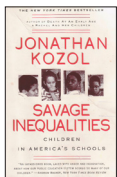
In *Possible Lives*, Rose chronicles his four-year exploration of American public schools; identifies effective ways in which teachers, children, and communities can interact; and proposes that by revitalizing public schools we can ultimately improve as a nation.



### **Relentless Pursuit: A Year in the Trenches with Teach For America**

*By Donna Foote*

Former *Newsweek* correspondent Foote writes about the experiences of four first-year Teach For America corps members at Locke High School in South Central Los Angeles during the 2005-06 school year. While every corps member's experience is unique, the challenges faced by the teachers in this book are emblematic of the massive needs corps members seek to address every day.



### **Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools**

*By Jonathan Kozol*

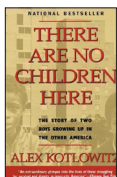
For two years, Jonathan Kozol visited America's public schools, especially those in its large cities. He spoke with teachers, students, principals and superintendents, as well as with city officials, newspaper reporters, and community leaders. The result of his work is the book *Savage Inequalities*, a searing expose of the extremes of wealth and poverty in America's public school system and the blighting effect it has on poor children.



### **Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire: The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56**

*By Rafe Esquith*

In a Los Angeles neighborhood plagued by guns, gangs, and drugs, there is an exceptional classroom known as Room 56. The fifth graders inside are first-generation immigrants who live in poverty and speak English as a second language. They also play Vivaldi, perform Shakespeare, score in the top 1 percent on standardized tests, and go on to attend Ivy League universities. Rafe Esquith is the teacher responsible for these accomplishments.



### **There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America**

*By Alex Kotlowitz*

In *There Are No Children Here*, the voices of two brothers growing up in a housing project in Chicago's West Side bring to life the harsh realities faced by many children in our nation and show how they maintain the innocence of childhood despite the fact that, as their mother tells the author, "they've seen too much."



### **Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America**

*By Paul Tough*

What would it take to change the lives of poor children — not one by one, through heroic interventions and occasional miracles, but in big numbers, and in a way that could be replicated nationwide? The question led Geoffrey Canada to create the Harlem Children's Zone, a 97-block laboratory in central Harlem where he is testing new and sometimes controversial ideas about eradicating poverty in America. His conclusion: If you want poor kids to be able to compete with their middle-class peers, you need to change everything in the lives — their schools, their neighborhoods, even the child-rearing practices of their parents.



### **Work Hard. Be Nice.: How Two Inspired Teachers Created the Most Promising Schools in America**

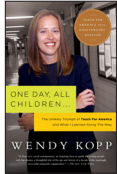
*By Jay Mathews*

Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin signed up for Teach For America right after college and vowed to remake themselves into superior educators. After completing their Teach For America commitment, they created a successful fifth-grade experience that would grow into the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), a national network of free, open-enrollment college-preparatory schools. Today there are 99 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

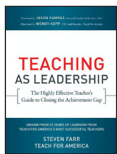
## FROM TEACH FOR AMERICA

**A Chance to Make History: What Works and What Doesn't in Providing an Excellent Education for All***By Wendy Kopp*

*A Chance To Make History*, written by Teach For America founder and CEO Wendy Kopp, features stories of teachers, schools, and entire districts that are changing the educational and life trajectories of students in low-income communities. To scale these examples of success, she calls for moving beyond the temptation of overly simplistic answers that can distract time and energy from the core of the solution and instead investing the energy and exerting the discipline that is producing results in growing numbers of classrooms, schools, and systems. Visit <http://achancetomakehistory.org> for more information.

**One Day, All Children...: The Unlikely Triumph Of Teach For America And What I Learned Along The Way***By Wendy Kopp*

Teach For America founder and CEO Wendy Kopp shares the story of the nonprofit organization that enlists outstanding college graduates to teach for two years in the most under-resourced urban and rural public schools in America. The success of the program has added to the evidence that children in low-income communities can learn at the highest levels when given the opportunity to do so.

**Teaching as Leadership: The Highly Effective Guide to Closing the Achievement Gap***By Steven Farr*

By observing the practices of 25,000 teachers trained and placed in some of the nation's highest-poverty schools over the past 20 years, Teach For America has identified six strategies common to highly effective teachers. In this book and its accompanying website, [www.teachingasleadership.org](http://www.teachingasleadership.org), Teach For America shares this learning and provides practical advice for teachers in low-income communities.

## FILMS

**The Lottery (<http://thelotteryfilm.com>)***Directed by Madeleine Sackler*

*The Lottery* focuses on a highly effective public school in New York City and four students who have entered the school's lottery for admission. The film employs interviews with politicians and educators to explain the crisis in public education, and how and why it can be fixed, making the case that any child can succeed.

**2 Million Minutes; A Documentary Calculating the Educational Divide (<http://www.2mminutes.com>)***Directed by Chad Heeter*

This documentary, directed and produced by two Teach For America alumni, takes an in-depth look at how students in the United States spend their high school years (which add up to approximately 2 million minutes) compared with students in India and China. The film portrays the varying levels of global education and addresses the implications of these differences.

**Waiting for "Superman" (<http://www.waitingforsuperman.com>)***Directed by Davis Guggenheim*

*Waiting for "Superman"* is a personal exploration of the state of education in the U.S. by filmmaker Davis Guggenheim (*An Inconvenient Truth*). Fueled by his conscience and electrified by the possibilities for change, Guggenheim follows five children and their families whose experiences with the education system reveal all that is at stake at this critical moment.

Full salary and health insurance. Federal student loans deferred.\* All majors and professional experiences.

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