

# KDSL

K D S L  
Know. Do. Serve. Learn.

Global Educational  
Consulting Services

## What can you do about the achievement gap?

### *KDSL Values*

*Knowledge*

*Action*

*Achievement*

*Relationships*

Right now a child is exposed to a teacher who is not highly qualified every day. Right now a child is struggling with reading. S/he may be passed on to another grade at the end of this year and will continue to lag behind their peers. Right now a child cannot compute. Math may be a phobia or antiquated practices may be the daily dose in the classroom. What would you do if your child were in any of these scenarios?

We ALL can play a major role in the life of a child. There are many local community programs seeking adult mentors right now. You do not have to be certified to teach to tutor a student in reading, math, science, social studies, and /or technology. There is definitely a need for an increase in the presence of males in the elementary school setting. This field is highly female dominated. Boys may go years without seeing a male teach them reading and math. On Mondays I work with Young Scholars (three fifth grade boys) from the City of Alexandria (Virginia) school system on literature for two hours.

The program is called Higher Achievement, serves students in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, VA.

([www.higherachievement.org/](http://www.higherachievement.org/)), and is closing the achievement gap by providing motivated students year round educational experiences. They provide a reality for me weekly that there is work to be done in the education profession. I can talk about it all day long, but as the quote states "actions speak louder than words." So if you are dissatisfied with the achievement gap existing in our society, then what are you going to do about it? What role can you play? There are many ways you can get involved. Check at your local school to see about opportunities to use your gifts and talents. This may include: reading to students, volunteering at a school event, sharing your career, working with students on your lunch time with math, or serving as a community sponsor. Be an achievement gap closer - right now!

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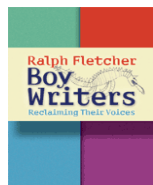
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### Quote

*"The achievement gap is a matter of race and class. Across the U.S., a gap in academic achievement persists between minority and disadvantaged students and their white counterparts. This is one of the most pressing education-policy challenges that states face."*

—Closing the Achievement Gap, <http://www.subnet.nga.org/educlear/achievement/index.html>

## *New Book Look!*



### **Boy Writers: Reclaiming Their Voices** by **Ralph Fletcher**

Why don't boys like writing as much as girls? This book explores the answer to this question as well as what can be done to create a classroom where the voices of boys are heard and honored. Insight is not only sought from the U.S. but from educators abroad.

## *New KDSL Service: Education Branding*

As of recent, KDSL has added a new service available to teachers....**education branding**. Nowadays you hear a great deal about “Building Your Brand.” Branding helps define who you are, how great you are, and why you should be sought after. What is essential with branding? Tracking accomplishments, education and training, promoting yourself, becoming an expert, and most important of all relationships.

Many times in the education field individuals believe there are only a few positions one is able to capture-teacher, assistant principal, and principal. There are so many more opportunities. There is a plethora of positions available to educators because the skills and methods teachers have are like no other. Businesses seek out educators for training/planning skills and nonprofit and for-profit organizations seek educators out for a variety of education related programs.

So it is with this knowledge that KDSL has started to work with teacher’s seeking more in the field of education beyond the traditional roles in schools. Currently, I am working with two clients. In order to allow for personal attention I will only work with 4 clients at a time. To learn more about this service or to set up a free initial consultation, email [KDSL07@hotmail.com](mailto:KDSL07@hotmail.com).

## **Education Around the World: South Korea**

**This month’s *Education Around the World* article comes from Jeryl Payne, who teaches Grade 5 at William Ramsey Elementary School in Alexandria, VA. Jeryl taught in South Korea for two years. South Korea occupies the southern portion of the Korean Peninsula and is one of the world’s most technologically and scientifically advanced countries.**

“Hey watch out!” I yell to a child as she darts into the street, almost being hit by a car... After a few days in Korea, I realized, children don’t WALK anywhere, they RUN everywhere. Where are they going? The list is endless: English School, Music School, Tae Kwon Do, Math School, even Running School! It didn’t take long to recognize that education is not merely routine in Korea - it’s a lifetime commitment!

Starting at a very early age, children in Korea attend preschool and the highly intelligent and affluent students may also attend an English Language Institute or other specialty schools (called Hagwons) before starting grade school. I was lucky to experience many aspects of learning as an English teacher in a Language Institute the first year and a Language Arts teacher, at an International School, the second year.

In Korea, family and education go hand and hand. Most parents work six days a week, ten hours a day in order to fund their children’s education. Wealthier families may choose to have one “breadwinner” and one “nurturer.” Parental expectations are high and children usually honor them: straight As, high ability in sports and music, and well disciplined in school. As an outsider looking in, I was puzzled by some things I saw and

later envious of the structure.

From first through twelfth grade, Korean children have very long days. A typical day for a second grader may be:  
 8:00am Grade School  
 3:00pm Home for a Snack and homework  
 4:00pm Tae Kwon Do or Music School or English School  
 7:00pm Home for dinner and Hagwon homework  
 9:00pm “Free Time” TV or Reading  
 10:00pm Sleep

For a middle or high school:  
 7:30am Grade School  
 2:30pm Home for Snack and Homework  
 4:30pm Tae Kwon Do or Music School or SAT Prep School or English School

10:00pm Homework from Hagwon and studying  
 12:00mid “Free Time” Computer Games or reading  
 1:00am Sleep

My first impressions of these schedules were “this is too much” but as I looked at the lifestyles of the adults, I understood this is a way of life for many Koreans. A typical adult works ten to twelve hours a day with “business dinners” well into the night, followed by about four to five hours of sleep, only to wake up and do it all again the next day! So what the children were experiencing was nothing strange.

What I loved on the flipside of this strong work ethic was as hard as they work, they play! A typical Saturday afternoon or holiday means usually hiking up a local mountain, biking or rollerblading at a local park and did I forget to mention karaoke? Everyone from young children to adults love karaoke (called Noreebag) I was lucky to be able to embrace many of these local customs during my stay!

Returning to the states gave me, of course, a new appreciation of America but more than that, an appreciation of the Korean culture that I plan to implement into certain aspects of my own life as an educator. Though the start was bumpy, I miss all of the strange happenings and look forward to going to another part of the world soon to enrich my life even more.



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Kevin Simpson has been consulting since 2004 and KDSL was started as a result of this work.



**Kevin Simpson** has been in the education field since 1998. He has taught in parochial, public, and international schools located in Washington, D.C., Michigan, Virginia, and Laos. Simpson has also served as a countywide elementary social studies curriculum teacher, preschool to twelfth grade curriculum coordinator, and elementary math specialist. He is a National Consultant with the U.S. Department of Education's *Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative* which provides effective, research-based practices to educators across the country. Simpson specializes in educating teachers, curriculum writing, and data-driven instruction. He believes that providing teachers with high quality, collaborative professional learning is essential to student achievement. Currently, he is a Senior Associate (Math) with America's Choice in Washington, D.C.

## Educational Consulting Services

*Services are individualized and tailored to the needs of the schools, teachers, grade level teams, and student achievement data. KDSL firmly believes the best professional learning is ongoing and sustained. Therefore, schools must commit to working with KDSL one or more times each marking period throughout the academic year. No one shot deals. For complete consulting service descriptions, please email [KDSL07@hotmail.com](mailto:KDSL07@hotmail.com).*

Got History?

Math that Works

Assessment: The Remix

Learning While Doing: Teachers as Readers

Show Me Don't Tell Me: Modeling and co-teaching lessons

Same, Same. Differentiate, Differentiate: Differentiating Instruction

Follow the Curriculum Map Road: Curriculum Mapping, Planning, and Pacing

Show me the Data! Accessing, analyzing, and acting on numbers

Somebody's Watching Me: Peer observation and feedback

Hands-on, Minds-on: Instructional Strategies that Work

The Secret: Teacher Collaboration



### Other Services Available

Education Branding

Curriculum Writing

School Improvement Plans

Instructional Walkthroughs