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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

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**ACHIEVEMENT GAP CONTINUES TO GROW BETWEEN COLORADO STUDENTS,  
ACCORDING TO REPORT FROM THE COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN**

**Report Finds Differences in Test Scores  
Increase Between Low-Income and Affluent Students**

The achievement gap between low-income students and their more affluent counterparts is wide and continues to grow, with Colorado's poorest children falling behind in reading, writing and math, according to a report released today by the Colorado Children's Campaign.

The report, "*390,343 Children Left Behind: Who's Closing the Achievement Gap in Colorado's Schools?*," examines the state's achievement gap by calculating average increases in CSAP proficiency levels since 1997. Findings from the report show that while improvements have been made across all grade levels generally, Colorado's poorest children in elementary, middle and high school are falling behind in reading, writing and math, with math showing the most dramatic gap.

While the achievement gap continues to grow between advantaged and disadvantaged students overall, the findings also show that many Colorado schools and districts have closed the gap to some extent. The report, which provides snapshots of student population and average annual improvement scores of schools throughout the state, identifies dozens of schools that have succeeded in raising scores of low-income students.

"The tragic news is that our most vulnerable children continue to fall further and further behind," said Barbara O'Brien, President of the Colorado Children's Campaign. "The good news is there are successful schools making real progress toward closing the achievement gap that show it can be done. Quality education is the key to opportunity for a lifetime, and we have much work to do to ensure that all of our children have access to it."

The report includes recommendations for closing the achievement gap, including:

- Continue to track the achievement gap on an annual basis in order to monitor the trends and understand what interventions are most successful;
- Encourage data transparency so that a range of audiences can understand and use it to support student growth;
- Focus resources and support on traditionally disadvantaged children;

- Support schools and strategies that are successful and replicate those strategies and programs; and
- Maintain high expectations for all children.

For more information and a detailed analysis of the achievement gap, please visit [www.coloradosmallschools.org](http://www.coloradosmallschools.org) or call (303) 839-1580 x 234 for a copy of the report.

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The Colorado Children's Campaign works to create hope and opportunity in Colorado  
– more than one million children at a time.