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## About The Education Trust

The Education Trust promotes high academic achievement for all students at all levels—pre-kindergarten through college. We work alongside parents, educators, policymakers, and community and business leaders across the country in transforming schools and colleges into institutions that serve all students well. Lessons learned in these efforts, together with unflinching data analyses, shape our state and national policy agendas. Our goal is to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement that consign far too many young people—especially those who are black, Latino, American Indian, or from low-income families—to lives on the margins of the American mainstream.

## What We Do

The Education Trust advances its mission along several fronts, from raising its voice in national and state policy debates to helping teachers improve instruction in their classrooms. Regardless of the setting, our work maintains a relentless focus on improving the education of all students, particularly those the system too often has neglected.

## Stay in touch!

Subscribe to our weekly reform-minded Equity news blast, Equity Express! E-mail [equityexpress@edtrust.org](mailto:equityexpress@edtrust.org).

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## The Education Trust

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THE EDUCATION TRUST  
Documentary Theater Productions presents

# SIX DEGREES OF PREPARATION

BY BROOKE HAYCOCK





“Hope is a good thing,  
maybe the best of things.”

—*The Shawshank Redemption*

*Six Degrees of Preparation* offers a powerful and intimate opportunity to examine teacher preparation, support, and retention. Commissioned by a state body of higher education, and based on more than 300 interviews with teachers, teacher candidates, teacher educators, teacher leaders, and students, *Six Degrees* exposes damaging beliefs and practices in school districts and schools of education, vividly portraying their impact on new teachers and the students they serve. One woman, 15 characters, 45 minutes.

#### ABOUT BROOKE HAYCOCK

Playwright-activist Brooke Haycock has been crafting and performing issue-focused theater with The Education Trust for nearly a decade. A former high school dropout from an urban public school system, Brooke now spends most of her time back in schools with students and educators, listening to their experiences of equity in American public education. Inspired by the work of Studs Terkel and Anna Deavere Smith, Brooke mixes interview with performance to produce incisive chronicles of opportunity, achievement, and equity in American public education.

#### Playwright's Note

Special thanks to the educators, administrators, students, and higher education leaders who so generously lent their time and ideas to this piece.

#### STAGING EQUITY IN THE REFORM ARENA

The Education Trust brings you theater for the education-reform movement. Provocative, edgy, and brutally honest, playwright-activist Brooke Haycock's one-woman documentary dramas strip bare some of the most emotionally charged issues we face in American education today. Designed for educators, parents, policymakers, and advocates, Brooke's performances spark tough conversations about equity in schools.

Bring an Education Trust production to your school, organization, district, or state to spur dialogue and action on gap-closing issues in your community.

Contact Brooke at [bhaycock@edtrust.org](mailto:bhaycock@edtrust.org) or call 202/293-1217 ext. 330.

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For more on issues of teacher quality, preparation, support, and retention:

Read The Ed Trust reports available on our Web site:

- Core Problems
- Teaching Inequality
- The Real Value of Teachers
- Honor in the Boxcar
- Good Teaching Matters

#### OTHER DOCUMENTARY DRAMAS FROM THE EDUCATION TRUST

All Education Trust documentary theater productions begin as conversations. Brooke spends hundreds of hours in schools across the country talking individually with students, teachers, administrators, and school counselors about issues of race, class, opportunity, and achievement. She then weaves these voices into often-raw, richly honest dramatizations that help stimulate uncomfortable but necessary discussions in schools and communities.

*Buzz: Defying Expectations and Other Lessons From the Bumble Bee.* Those who question whether all students can soar academically need to hear the story of the aerodynamicist and the bumble bee. *Buzz* is a testimony to hope, hard work, and high achievement in America's high-poverty, high-minority high schools. This dynamic performance chronicles the educational struggles and ultimate triumphs of schools, educators, and students who refuse to settle for anything short of real success.

*Catalyst* is an unflinching portrayal of the power of teachers to change students' lives. Following two young men, Carl and Isaiah, *Catalyst* takes on the tough questions of student engagement, bringing audiences face to face with some of the most devastating—and inspiring—images of student transformation.

*Dilated Pupils and the Not-So-Soft Bigotry of a Nation* takes audiences on a whirlwind tour through the school doors, past the metal detectors, and straight into the lives of three high school students. Told from the perspectives of students and the adults in their lives, *Dilated Pupils* dares audiences to confront the stories of young people hobbled by low expectations.