

The Policy Research Institute for the Region (PRIOR), and the Wilson School's Education Research Section will co-host a closed practitioners' working conference on "Tougher Standards and High School Academics." The invitation-only conference will gather practitioners, consultants, academics, Education Law Center and staff from the Department of Education to discuss the mandate for high school re-constitution and how school districts and their high schools can prepare for the even tougher academic standards recommended by the New Jersey High School Redesign Steering Committee. The achievement gap between affluent and poor students will only be exacerbated when more rigorous standards are set for students who are unable to meet the standards and assessments that are presently in place. The challenge will be to craft and implement a plan that will enable these students to achieve the newly-mandated goals. With that in mind, the conference participants will discuss the approach taken by Montgomery County, MD public schools, which emphasize rigorous academic expectations and increased instructional time for both literacy and math in the early grades.