What is Educators for Excellence?

Get the Facts

Education for Excellence (E4E) was founded in 2010 by Evan Stone and Sydney Morris—neither of whom hold teaching certificates. E4E advocates for merit-based pay, teacher evaluations that incorporate value-added student achievement data, and eliminating seniority in decisions about teacher layoffs.

Though E4E touts itself as a grassroots organization, it receives millions of dollars from corporate reform foundations and is an offshoot of the hedge fund-backed organization Education Reform Now. E4E also has ties to anti-public education groups like Michelle Rhee's StudentsFirst. The fact is, Educators for Excellence promotes the kind of top-down education reform that undermines public education, teachers and students.

Educators for Excellence is backed by anti-public education, right-wing corporate reformers who value profit over what is best for children.

E4E's funders include:

- The Walton Foundation, a major financier of anti-union, conservative and anti-environmental causes.
- The William E. Simon Foundation, which provided $40,000 in grants to E4E in 2011 and 2012, also finances hard-line conservative groups like the Federalist Society, The Manhattan Institute and the Alliance for School Choice.
- The Bodman Foundation, which has backed an anti-union teacher association (the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education), the Federalist Society, and the anti-gay Institute for Family Studies.
- The Laura and John Arnold Foundation, which gave $500,000 to E4E in 2012, is known for using its wealth to destroy retirement security for teachers.

Educators for Excellence touts itself as a “teacher” organization, but remains silent about attacks on the teaching profession.

The teaching profession and teachers’ rights to have a voice to advocate for schools and students have been under attack in recent years. E4E stands by without challenging legislative or public attacks on teachers and their right to have a voice in the workplace. They use a widely known marketing tactic to politics called “dog whistle politics.” They use language sharp enough to get the attention of the target audience, but vague enough to defend when confronted about it. E4E spent $284,665 on media communications in 2013, in just one city alone.*

Educators for Excellence works to undermine teachers and their unions.

In many cities, E4E tries to influence and interfere in union affairs, despite its ties to various state and local departments of education. Their actions—which can be described as management-linked interference with union affairs—have included obstructing contract negotiations and vilifying unions in the middle of contract campaigns.

Bottom line—Beware of E4E and its tactics.

E4E is getting funded to set up a chapter here in Boston. They tend to target early career teachers and try to build their membership through coffee hours, free lunches, raffles, and happy hours. **Please help spread the word about E4E so that our members are aware of their tactics!** If you see them in your school, please let us know.

*To read more about a first-hand account on E4E please visit: [http://mpsteacher.blogspot.com](http://mpsteacher.blogspot.com)