

## Module 4- Development and the Effect of Poverty

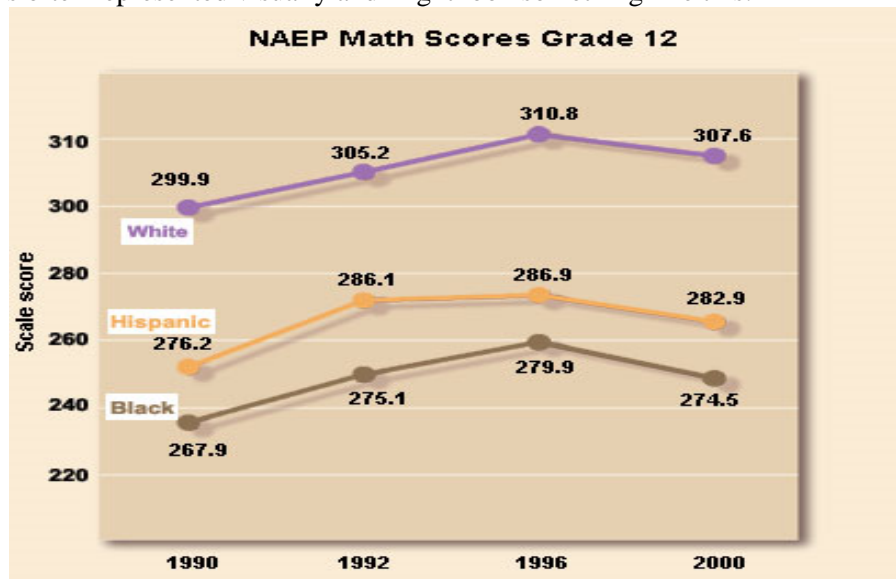
### The Key Concepts:

The best resource for understanding the nature of poverty and its affect on development and your students, is the Jensen text. Below are several points related to Jensen, as well as other sources covered in the EDCO 200 course.

**The Achievement Gap** (an online resource with great information can be found [here<sup>1</sup>](#)):

1. At its essence the achievement gap refers to a disparity that exists between groups of students. For example, if white students significantly outperform African-American students on a test of achievement (a high stakes test administered by the state), then an achievement gap exists.
2. However, in order to fully understand these differences, one must analyze the factors in the context associated with that particular school.
  - a. This includes, but is not limited to, the effects of poverty (including health, social, economic, and other issues) as well as other factors such as the historical precedents and the nature of the test itself.

This concept is often represented visually and might look something like this:



Source: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2005/03/23/28math-s1.h24.html>

The effects of poverty on literacy and social skills:

1. Literacy: Literacy can be affected in numerous ways by poverty. One example of a statistic related to this concept is that nationally, first graders from a high poverty area have 50% fewer words in their vocabulary than their same age peers in an area not affected by poverty.
2. Social Skills: Poverty can have an adverse affect on students' social skills as well, because many students in poverty are preoccupied with much greater problems such as hunger, clothing, housing, etc. One great resource for understanding more about the adverse affects on social skills can be found [here<sup>2</sup>](#).

### Test Your Knowledge:

1. What, in your words is the achievement gap?
2. Cite 2-3 reasons why it might exist within a certain school district.
3. Draw a similar chart to the one above on the back of this page.
4. Cite 2 ways poverty affects language and 2 ways poverty affects social skills by clicking on the links above.

## Module 4-Development and the Effects of Poverty

### Links for Module 4:

Link 1: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/achievement-gap/>

Link 2: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2528798/>

Refer to chapter two of Jensen:

