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## Indianapolis Tests Out Education Reform?

*A confluence of factors favors school choice—for now.*

**By Matthew Tully**

17 September 2009

*The classrooms were full and bustling with activity at Valley Mills Elementary School on the city's southwest side one recent rain-soaked morning. Children smiled and raised their hands, eager to answer questions, and to tell me how happy they were to be in school on a summer day. This was not your father's summer school—punitive and mandatory—but a fresh approach to bridging the achievement gap.*

*Education reform has long been a popular buzz phrase. But too often it's proven to be a hollow call as the education establishment kills off common sense reforms even while we watch districts struggle with failing schools and low graduation rates.*

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This article was first published online in [The Wall Street Journal](#) 4 September 2009.

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