The K-12 Establishment Discovers Urgency in Fallacy

John Merrifield March 23, 2015

Education Week's January 28, 2015 <u>headline article</u> announced that: "Student's from low-income households have made up a rising share of the public school population for years. Their recent shift into the majority serves as an urgent signal to policymakers and schools."

Somehow, the author, and the *Education Week* editors that chose to make this a headline story, think the urgency implied in the income inequality trend trumps the existing urgency signal of periodic affirmations – <u>five so far</u> – of the 1983 '<u>Nation at Risk</u>' statement that it would be an act of war if a foreign power had imposed our K-12 system on us. Also, the specific nature of the incredible discovery of urgency falsely implies that our current system works acceptably for the non-poor. <u>It does not</u>.

Furthermore, the growing income inequality trend that is increasing the 'in-poverty' share of schoolchildren is an expected symptom of a longtime low-performing school system. We should suspect a connection between growing income inequality and the persistence of our low-performing school system.