

## Annie E. Casey Foundation

### *Schools that Work: Data Helps Students Succeed*

September 2008

- Narrator: Welcome to “Schools that Work: Voices from the Inside”, a podcast of the Annie E. Casey foundation. Parks Middle School in Atlanta went from failing school to best in the district. This is the second of six episodes about people and partnerships that have improved results for kids and families at Parks.
- Reporter: *(behind the camera)* Why is data important in kids’ education?
- Alfred Kiel: Oh...wow! When you ask me about data being important in a child’s education I think about a doctor working on a child who has a terminal disease that nobody can help but that doctor and so the data to me represent the doctor that straightens out or diagnoses the problem so that he don’t pull out a teeth when he should be taking out an eye. But that’s how I seriously feel about data. It’s a passion. It tells the truth. It’s not what I think and what I feel and what ought to be and how I perceive it, but how it actually is. I’m trying to be as specific as I can, but I use the CRCT (*Georgia’s student achievement test*) data and the benchmark data—the benchmark that come from the area so I use that data and then we have in house data where our own is marked up with if a child has covered so much material. So I use all of this data and then I combine all of the data I have to see if all of it is in the same thing.
- Reporter: *(behind the camera)* And so when you say the word data, are you talking about only test scores or does it include more than that?
- Alfred Kiel: No! Test scores play a critical part in it. You can’t get around the test scores. You gotta have test scores, ok? But also, the teacher’s opinion has a lot to do with it also. Once the strengths and weaknesses of the students are discovered then we try to put those students into programs that will help or enable them to do a better job at what they are asked to. People say, “Oh these children don’t want to learn”. Name one person that wants to be stupid! I’m sorry. Tell me, tell me, tell me! If you could tell me and prove that to me...

**- End of video -**

Video participant:

Alfred Kiel – Instructional Specialist, Parks Middle School