

Sec'ty Duncan's Outbursts Mar Research Conference

Seattle, WA. This year's annual conference about research on education was repeatedly interrupted by cries of "You Lie!" by U.S. Secretary from Education Arne Duncan.

The initial incident occurred on Tuesday morning, during a session about charter schools. Members of the audience reported that Duncan, who was sitting near the front, jumped to his feet and shouted "You Lie!" just after a panelist said, "We now know beyond any reasonable doubt that charter schools are not likely to drive substantial innovation or improvements in student achievement."

Later, during a Tuesday afternoon session about alternative approaches to principal and teacher evaluation and compensation, the Secretary again leapt up, yelling "You Lie! You Lie!" when a panelist explained the fundamental principle that tests should be used only for the purpose for which they were developed, and "tests developed to assess student knowledge have not been validated for use in evaluating teachers or principals." Five minutes later,

when the same panelist said that research on test-score-based teacher evaluation is undeveloped and could not support a major scaling up of the policy, Duncan could be heard throughout the auditorium repeating "You Lie! You Lie! You Lie!"

The final "You Lie!" incident occurred the next morning, during an address by NYU professor Diane Ravitch, when she [suggested](#) that Duncan "really is Margaret Spellings [the Bush Education Secretary] without the glasses and wearing very high heels." This time, he also elevated his leg and pointed to his low-heeled loafers.

When asked about these outbursts, the Secretary insisted that they were all unscripted, spontaneous reactions. "I've done a magnificent job surrounding myself with people who pretend that the research actually supports our policies. So it's quite a shock to my system to hear anything contradicting that. Rest assured, I'll have a stern talk with my scheduler when I get back to the office."

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