

## **FACTS about Educational Disparity**

**Black students continue to fall far behind their white peers in educational achievement.** Their average reading and math scores have shown little improvement over the past 20 years and show alarming disparities. Only 13 out of 100 Black students performed at or above the national proficient level in math vs. 43 of 100 white students. Similarly, only 15 out of 100 Black students met or exceeded the national proficient level for reading, while 41 white students achieved that level.

**Students of color are often concentrated in schools with fewer resources.** Schools with 90 percent or more students of color spend \$733 less per student per year than schools with 90 percent or more white students.

**Forty five percent of Black students attend high-poverty schools, compared with only eight percent of white students.**

**African American students are often located in schools with less qualified teachers, teachers with lower salaries and novice teachers.**

**There is a lack of Black representation in school personnel.** According to a Department of Education report, only 10 percent of public school principals are Black, compared to 80 percent white. Furthermore, eighty-two percent of public school educators are white, compared to 18 percent teachers of color. In addition, Black male teachers constitute only two percent of the teaching workforce.

**Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education.** Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as are white students. They are also almost four times as likely as their white peers to receive one or more school suspensions. Even more troubling, Black students are 2.5 times more likely to receive a referral to law enforcement or be subject to a school-related arrest as are white students.

**Research has shown evidence of systematic bias in teacher expectations for African American students, and non-Black teachers were found to have lower expectations of Black students than Black teachers.**

**African American students are less likely than their white peers to be college-ready.** In fact, 61 percent of ACT-tested Black students in the 2015 graduating class met none of the four ACT college readiness benchmarks, nearly twice the 31 percent rate for all students.

The average Black or Hispanic student remains roughly two years behind the average white one, and low-income students continue to be underrepresented among top performers.

**The pandemic has further exacerbated these differences.**

A **McKinsey analysis** found that **40% of African-American students and 30% of Hispanic students in U.S. K-12 schools received no online instruction during COVID-induced school shutdowns, compared to 10% of whites.** These gaps in access to online education and digital services widen the already substantial educational inequalities that exist and push them to new heights. If continued for a lengthy period of time, such differentials expose our most disadvantaged students to large barriers to advancement and a future of income deprivation or economic stagnation.

**Learning loss will probably be greatest among low-income, Black, and Hispanic students.** Lower-income students are less likely to have access to high-quality remote learning or to a conducive learning environment, such as a quiet space with minimal distractions, devices they do not need to share, high-speed internet, and parental academic supervision.<sup>11</sup> Data from Curriculum Associates, creators of the i-Ready digital-instruction and -assessment software, suggest that only 60 percent of low-income students are regularly logging into online instruction; 90 percent of high-income students do. Engagement rates are also lagging behind in schools serving predominantly Black and Hispanic students; just 60 to 70 percent are logging in regularly

Information on this topic is endless, but here are a few resources for you to explore further.

**Articles/Books**

Brookings Institute: How to Address Inequality Exposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic (November 2020)

<https://www.brookings.edu/president/how-to-address-inequality-exposed-by-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Ghosts in the Graveyard by Eve Ewing

Book focuses on Chicago public schools and the history of systemic racism and inequality that reaches deep into the City's past.

<https://eveewing.com/ghosts-in-the-schoolyard>

New York Times article that focuses on school segregation and inequality. It also includes a number of teaching/learning activities that provide direction for dialogue. (May 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/learning/lesson-plans/still-separate-still-unequal-teaching-about-school-segregation-and-educational-inequality.html>

## **Videos**

Jonathan Kozol is a leading activist and educator who has explored and deplored the inequalities in American education since the early 90's. He has written many books...the most well known of which is Savage Inequalities published in 1991.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcTy-qADhmw&ab\\_channel=ChristianG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcTy-qADhmw&ab_channel=ChristianG)

The ABC's of Racial Inequality in Education, Politico, 2020. Traces history of education disparities from founding of country to present day.

<https://www.facebook.com/politico/videos/620964015260060/>

## **Podcast**

From Serial and The New York Times: "Nice White Parents" looks at the 60-year relationship between white parents and the public school down the block.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/podcasts/nice-white-parents-serial.html>

From This American Life: There's a program that brings together kids from two schools. One school is public and in the country's poorest Congressional district. The other is private and costs \$43,000/year. They are three miles apart. The hope is that kids connect, but some of the public school kids can't get over the divide.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/550/three-miles>

From This American Life: A two-part series. In 2015, American Life staff members spent five months at Harper High School in Chicago where in just one year, 29 current and recent students were shot. They went to get a sense of what it means to live in the midst of all the gun violence.

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/487/harper-high-school-part-one>

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/488/harper-high-school-part-two>