

Education Resources

The context note below has been adapted from the Reuters article, [“The Race Gap: How U.S. Systemic Racism Plays Out in Black Lives”](#)

Racial inequality continues in education -- from preschool to college -- setting up many Black Americans for a lifetime of social and economic disadvantages. A high-quality preschool can help close early skills gaps, but only 15% of Black children attend one, compared to 24% of white children, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research, a nonprofit policy organization. Less than 1/3 of Black students earn a bachelor's degree or higher (which can open doors to higher-paying jobs with benefits like healthcare), compared to almost 1/2 of white students.

More than 65 years after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed **school segregation**, Black children often still attend highly segregated and underfunded schools. Because of **housing discrimination** and **school-district gerrymandering**, more than half of U.S. students attend schools with populations that are more than 75% white or 75% non-white, according to EdBuild, an organization that has **advocated** (*fought/supported*) for more **equitable** (*fair/just*) school funding. The **predominantly** (*mostly*) non-white districts spent \$2,000 less per student on average than the mostly white districts, largely because schools are financed by local property taxes (homes in predominantly white areas are typically more expensive with higher taxes). Nationwide, that amounts to a **deficit** (*shortage*) of \$23 billion -- meaning that predominantly non-white schools receive significantly less funding to provide for their students.

***school segregation**: the practice of separating children of different races into different public schools

***housing discrimination**: patterns of discrimination that affect a person's ability to rent or buy homes

***school-district gerrymandering**: the practice of purposefully “drawing” the boundaries of school districts to favor specific groups (usually determined by wealth or race/ethnicity).

ArTICLE: ["HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE US" Applied Research Center \(2013\)](#)

ARTICLE: [“K-12 Disparity Facts and Statistics.” UNCF \(20 March 2020\).](#)

ARTICLE: [Nittle, Nadra Kareem. “How Racism Affects Children of Color in Public Schools.” ThoughtCo \(28 February 2021\).](#)

VIDEO: [“The Battle for School Bussing.” The New York Times \(9 September 2013\).](#)

ARTICLE: [Weir, Kirsten. “Inequality at School: What’s behind the Racial Disparity in Our Education System?” American Psychological Association \(November 2016\).](#)

ARTICLE: [Weis, Julia. “Latino Students Misdiagnosed with Learning Disabilities Raises Questions about Discrimination, Bias.” Salud America \(25 November 2020\).](#)

VIDEO: [“Why Are Schools Still So Segregated.” Above the Noise \(7 February 2018\).](#)