



ABFE

A PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIP FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

Education
BLACK FACTS





Education: Black Facts

42 PERCENT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS ATTEND POORLY-RESOURCED, LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS COMPARED TO ONLY 15 PERCENT OF WHITE STUDENTS.

(SCHOTT FOUNDATION 2012)

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE BECOMING MORE RACIALLY SEGREGATED.

Unequal school resources

Public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. This economic model generates large funding disparities between wealthy and high poverty schools. Because neighborhood segregation and local school revenue are intricately tied, students in high poverty, racially segregated schools are less likely to academically achieve due to lower levels of tax revenue. Latino and Black students comprise approximately 80 percent of student populations in extremely low-income schools. Better funded schools are often able to attract highly trained and qualified teachers and administrators, improve school aesthetics, invest in curriculum and technology, and generate overall better achievement among students.

Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs

The years between pre-kindergarten and third grade are vital to creating the foundation for later school success. Providing quality pre-kindergarten services to 3- and 4- year olds has a tremendous impact in closing achievement gaps. Youth from low-income families who start kindergarten without first attending pre-kindergarten are 18 months behind their peers and many never catch up. Approximately 60 percent of African American preschoolers do not attend full-day prekindergarten or preschool programs.

Teacher training/quality

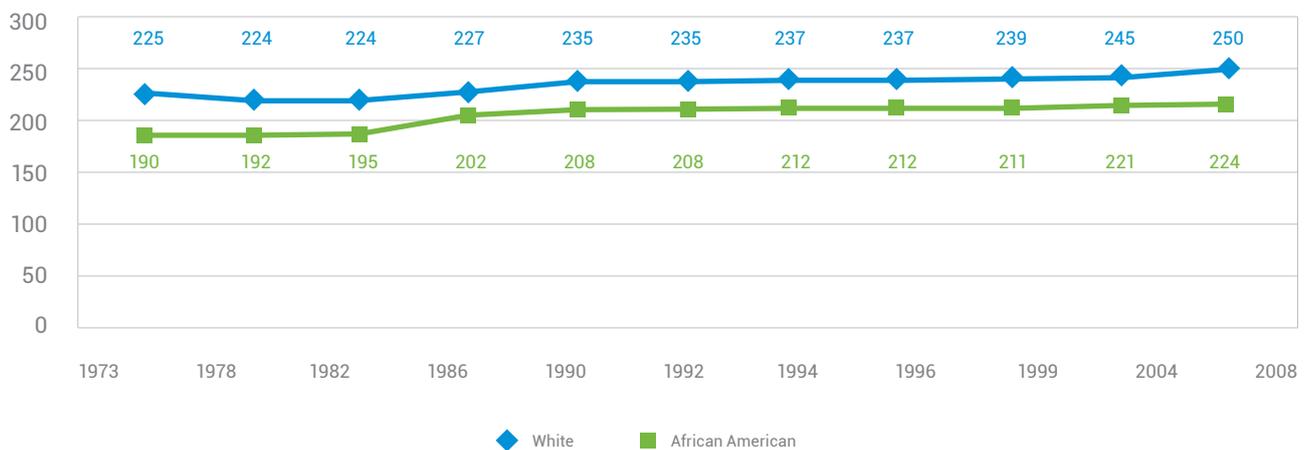
Research has shown that teachers are the most significant educational resource in a school district. If the most talented teachers were matched up with the most vulnerable students, schools could close the educational achievement gap. However, what we find is the opposite. Schools with the highest percentage of minority students are most likely to employ new-to-the-field teachers. Teachers who have received the best training, with the most innovative classroom strategies are more likely to be teaching in upper middle class schools, which tend to have very little, if any, African American students.

The Consequences of UnEqual Opportunity

Differential achievement levels

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, white students scored 26 points higher than Black students in Math and Reading assessment tests in 2009. This pattern has been pretty consistent over the last 30 years. These educational disparities lead to African American students being at least four years behind their white counterparts by the time they finish high school.

White-Black Average Reading Scores, age 9

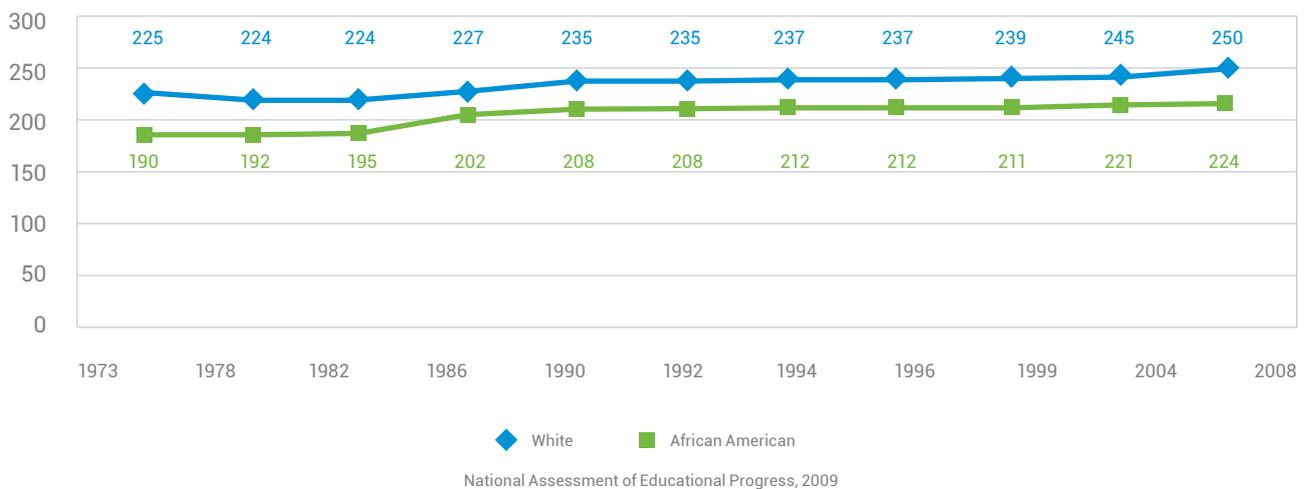


National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2009

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WHITE STUDENTS SCORED 26 POINTS HIGHER THAN BLACK STUDENTS IN MATH AND READING ASSESSMENT TESTS IN 2009.

White-Black Average Mathematics Score, age 9



Differential high school completion rates

It's estimated that a high school graduate will earn \$450,000 more in their lifetime than a dropout, and that high school graduates will generate more than \$200,000 in higher tax revenues and savings in government expenditures over their lifetime. Moreover, according to the Schott Foundation, approximately 53 percent of African American males are graduating from high school compared to 22 percent of white males. Black high school dropouts feed a growing black underclass of economically disadvantaged families, making it more difficult to break the cycle of poverty.

Differential access to higher education

In 2009, 19 percent of African Americans held a four-year bachelors degree compared to 30 percent of whites. Individuals with a college education earn approximately \$300,000 more over the course of their lifetime than high school graduates. College is even more elusive for those who are the most economically vulnerable. For example, high school is the highest level of education attained by 64.6 percent of students from the lowest quartile of the socioeconomic status. More specifically, African American rates of graduation from four-year institutions, over the past twenty years, have slowly declined.

Philanthropic Investment Strategies to Promote Equal Opportunity

Support Policy

Because of Philanthropy's neutral political position it can bring together policymakers from both sides of the aisle to honestly and frankly discuss the tough issues of education and develop innovative policy solutions. These convenings should happen at various levels of government, especially locally and regionally where many educational decisions are made.

Fund Innovative Projects

Philanthropy can play a key role in funding innovative educational projects that can be adopted by school systems. Innovative projects can include developing programs to attract and retain talented teachers and school administrators to partnering with large corporations to have them invest in public education's math and science programs.

Fund Educational Research

Data is incredibly important in shaping educational policy and Philanthropy is in a unique position to engage the academic community to produce and distribute quality research that can be used by policymakers, school administrators, teachers, community residents, and parents to better design and evaluate educational effectiveness.

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BETTER FUNDED SCHOOLS ARE OFTEN ABLE TO ATTRACT HIGHLY TRAINED AND QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

Invest in schools

Disparity in school funding is a huge obstacle to student achievement. Philanthropic organizations can work with their donors to make strategic investments in public education. Moreover, foundations can help leverage both financial and human capital in improving failing schools.

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ABFE

A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities



ABFE
333 Seventh Avenue
14th Floor
New York, New York 10001

T: 646.230.0306
F: 646.230.0310
E: info@abfe.org

www.abfe.org