



EQUITY
ASSISTANCE
CENTER -
SOUTH AT SEF

How to Address Racial, Ethnic, and Economic Segregation

WHAT IS SCHOOL SEGREGATION AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Racial/ethnic and economic segregation in schools, which refers to the separation of students based on race, ethnicity, or income, continues to be one of the most significant barriers to educational equity. Segregation often places low-income students in schools that lack the resources needed to meet their academic and social-emotional needs. In schools with high concentrations of poverty, students of color are disproportionately affected, leading to lower educational outcomes.

BENEFITS OF DIVERSE SCHOOLS

School integration brings together students from various racial and economic backgrounds, improving academic achievement, social interactions, and preparing students for a diverse workforce and society.

Studies show that integrated schools have:

- Higher academic achievement for students of color
- More creative problem-solving and critical thinking among students
- Better access to quality teachers and curriculum resources
- More cross-racial friendships and fewer instances of prejudice and bullying
- Stronger civic engagement



CONSEQUENCES OF SEGREGATION

- **Academic Gaps:** Segregated schools tend to have fewer resources which then leads to lower academic performance.
- **Social Impact:** Limits students' exposure to diverse social groups, leading to stereotyping and bias.
- **Long-term Impact:** Harms students' future opportunities in the workforce and civic participation.

For help with implementing these strategies, contact the Equity Assistance Center – South
The Southern Education Foundation at: eacsouth@southerneducation.org



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACHIEVING GREATER INTEGRATION

Below are flexible strategies that districts can adapt to meet their specific needs and student populations:

- **Specialized Academic Programs:** Develop unique programs that attract and engage a more diverse student population.
- **Redrawing and Modernizing Boundaries:** Adjust outdated school attendance zones to better reflect current demographics, improving both economic and racial diversity.
- **Federal Grants:** Obtain funding to enhance specialized programs and increase opportunities for underrepresented students.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively involve families and the broader community in equity efforts to create lasting, positive changes.

For additional details and resources, please scan the QR code.



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