

Memorandum



DATE February 12, 2016
TO The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
SUBJECT **Housing Policy = School Policy Briefing**

On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, the City Council will be briefed by Representatives from the Dallas Independent School District on the Housing Policy = School Policy. The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

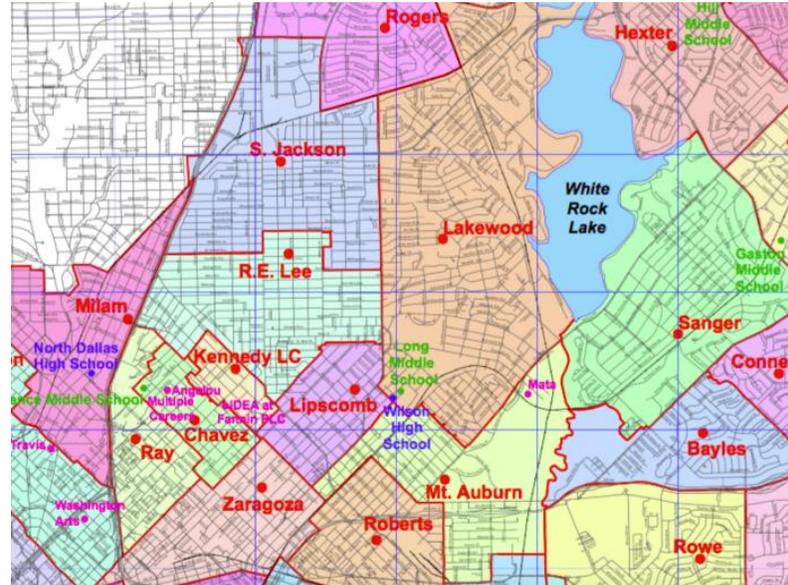


Alan E. Sims
Chief of Neighborhood Plus

Attachments

C: A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Soits, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Housing Policy = School Policy



Mike Koprowski
Chief of Transformation & Innovation
Dallas ISD
February 17, 2016

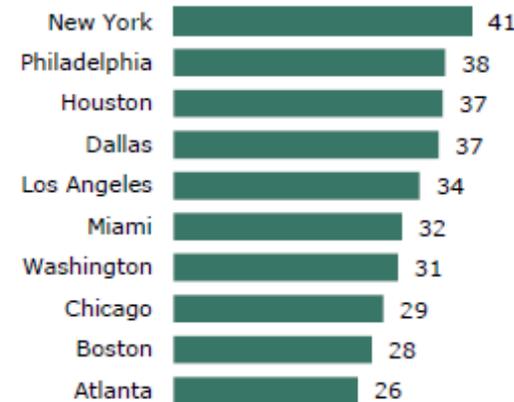
Refresher

Neighborhood Segregation + Attendance Boundaries = School Segregation

- **School segregation is detrimental for student outcomes (half-century of data)**
- **Economically diverse schools are better for all students**
 - High-poverty schools can be successful, but the challenges are more weighty
- **School districts can't wait for neighborhood integration; instead, creative enrollment policies are needed**
 - Transformation Schools
 - 1) Transportation provided
 - 2) Attractive instructional model
 - 3) Open enrollment with weighted lotteries

Share of Lower-Income Households Residing in Majority Lower-Income Census Tract, 10 Largest Metros, 2010

%



Notes: The geographic area refers to the entire metropolitan area, not just the city. So, for example, New York refers to the three-state area included in the New York metro area, home to 19 million people in 2010.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year file

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Share of Upper-Income Households Residing in Majority Upper-Income Census Tract, 10 Largest Metros, 2010

%



Notes: The geographic area refers to the entire metropolitan area, not just the city. So, for example, New York refers to the three-state area included in the New York metro area, home to 19 million people in 2010.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year file.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Solar Preparatory School for Girls

- Serious attempt at socioeconomic (SES) integration
- K-8 single gender STEAM school
- 50/50 weighted admissions lottery; no admissions requirements; open enrollment; transportation
- Create a proof point
- Also a protection against the downsides of gentrification



A Strategy to Improve Student Achievement

- **SES integration is an actual strategy to improve achievement for low-income students**
 - Same as teacher quality, principal quality, better instruction, extended learning time, tutoring, etc.
- **Peer Effect; Teacher Quality; Social Capital**
- **We've known it for a while...**



School Desegregation

- **Major government intervention**
- **Achievement gap narrowest at height of desegregation**
 - NAEP Reading, 1971 – 53 point gap; Narrowed to 20 points by 1988
- **Early 90s – courts begin to dismantle desegregation plans; achievement gap climbs to 26 points in 2012**
- **Schools as segregated today as in the late 1960s**
- **Rucker Johnson (2011)**
 - National longitudinal study from childhood to adulthood



Findings: Effects of School Desegregation

- Higher graduation rates for blacks; no effect for whites
- Educational gaps narrowed SIGNIFICANTLY for blacks; no effect for whites
- Lower incarceration rates for blacks; no effect for whites
- Greater career outcomes/earnings for blacks; no effect for whites
- Improved health (on average 7 years younger)
- Generational impact (their children)
- Overall, substantial reductions in adult poverty
- Dosage effect - The more years of exposure to integrated schools, the better outcomes
- Johnson found that deseg played the dominant role
- Other studies found that white students attending integrated schools were more likely to live in integrated neighborhoods as grown-ups and to send their own kids to racially integrated schools
- Desegregation made majority of the students who attended these schools less racially prejudiced

Why?

- **More to do with socioeconomic integration**
 - Peer effect; teacher quality; social capital
- **Desegregation is the only national intervention that has ever substantially narrowed the achievement gap**

Parents Involved vs. Seattle

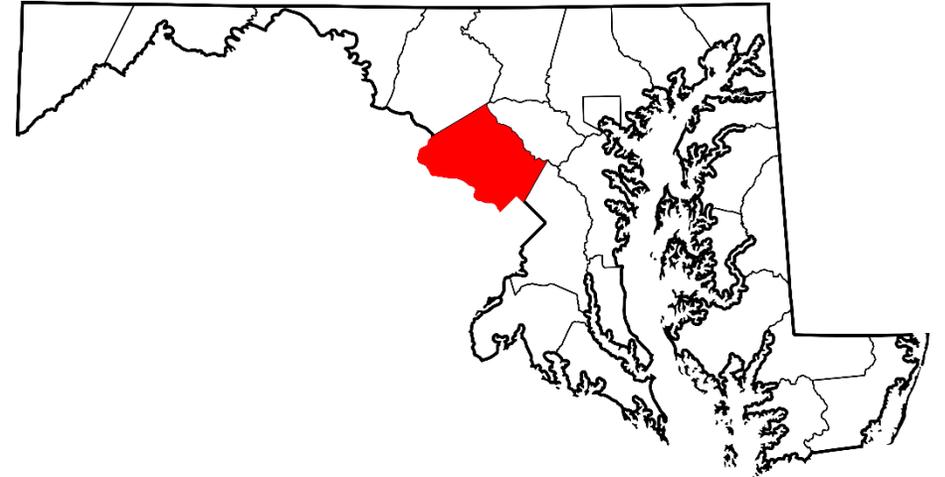
- **Courts left, but several districts continued to look at race in school assignments to avoid re-segregation**
 - Feared that housing patterns would take over again
- ***Parents Involved (2007)*: race cannot be used as a factor in K-12 admissions**
- **Scholars and some districts began to advocate socioeconomic classifications instead of racial classifications**

80 districts nationally

- **SES instead of race**
- **Voluntary instead of compulsory (i.e., Public School Choice)**
- **80 districts nationally have explicitly pursued SES-based enrollment policies (i.e., Raleigh-Durham, NC, Louisville, KY, Cambridge, MA)**
- **Current Events:**
 - NYC: Chancellor allows 7 schools to establish SES-based admissions policies
 - Charlotte-Mecklenberg: Board revisiting school assignment plan
 - St. Paul and Minneapolis: Civil rights attorneys suing, claiming that attendance boundaries place minority and poor children in certain schools while others have mostly white and wealthy children
- **Richard Kahlenberg** – “the only known educational intervention known to have a greater return on investment is very high-quality early childhood education”

Here's what can happen if the city promotes mixed-income neighborhoods...

- Montgomery County, MD
- The ultimate showcase of how housing policy is school policy



Montgomery County, MD

- 1970s – began mixed-income housing program (scattered-site public housing)
- After 7 years, low-income children in the economically mixed schools performed 8 percentage points higher on math tests than their low-income peers attending the higher-poverty schools - even though the county had put extra resources into the high-poverty schools (~\$2,000 more per-pupil)
- Flips conventional wisdom on its head
- Housing policy IS school policy
 - Decisions about housing greatly impact student outcomes
 - That relationship is not often discussed publicly



So Powerful, So Neglected

- **Education advocates on both sides of the political aisle are increasingly supportive of SES Diversity**
- **SES Diversity is the most powerful but most neglected school-reform tool**
- **We must improve high-poverty schools while simultaneously reducing their prevalence in the first place**
 - Where there are opportunities to create economically mixed schools, we should capitalize on it

So Powerful, So Neglected

- **John King:** *“Research shows that one of the best things we can do for all children—black or white, rich or poor—is give them a chance to attend strong, socioeconomically diverse schools. We should support innovative, voluntary locally-driven efforts to promote socioeconomic diversity in schools.”*
- **Richard Kahlenberg:** *“Most of the focus is on fixing high-poverty schools and accepting that our schools are going to be racially and economically segregated. We don’t have to accept segregation as inevitable and should look at creative, non-coercive ways, to desegregate our public schools.”*
- **Thurgood Marshall:** *“Unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together.”*



Great Timing

- Neighborhood Plus (alleviate poverty; attract and retain middle class)
- Public School Choice (SES Diversity enrollment goals)
- Bond program (new Transformation Schools slated; opens door for more creative, open enrollment procedures)
- Affordable housing discussions at City