

RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION AND SCHOOL SEGREGATION: A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE PROGRAMS

Mariah Alexander

Research Question:

Can contemporary school choice programs alleviate segregation in schools, perpetuating from surrounding residential segregation?

Methods:

- Case study of historical desegregation policies and the origins of contemporary school choice programs in four metropolitan areas
- Process-based analysis of school choice programs and their impacts on segregation levels in schools: trace path of each metro area to its current school choice program and the broader impacts on metro level schools
- Using measures of residential and school segregation, comparison of compositions of schools and types of schools, and comparisons of metropolitan area and metropolitan area school demographics

Findings:

- School choice programs are extremely limited by individual choice and Supreme Court rulings
 - Lack of compliance and self-selection into certain areas (i.e., white flight from public school system and majority-minority areas)
- Supreme Court rulings against required equal funding, inter-district solutions, and race-based admissions
- School segregation in all metropolitan areas was higher than surrounding residential areas
- Voluntary school choice programs were largely unsuccessful

Figure 3.2: Graph of Boston Black-White Dissimilarity Indices

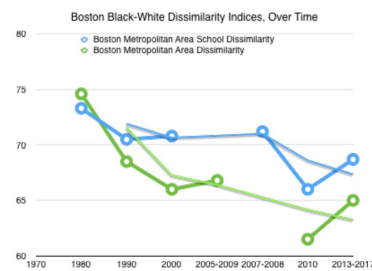


Figure 5.2: Philadelphia Black-White Dissimilarity Indices

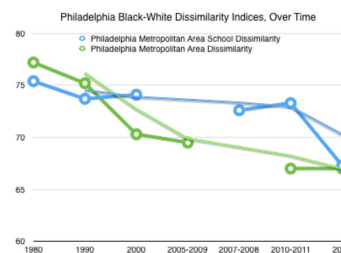


Figure 9a: Table of Comparisons of Metropolitan Area Schools

	Boston ¹	Chicago ²	Philadelphia ³	San Francisco ⁴
Number of Public Schools	125	513	215	136
Total Enrollment in Public Schools	54,300	361,314	126,994	54,063
Total Enrollment Age	74,429	570,457	238,426	112,802
Percent of Student Population Age Enrolled in Public Schools	72.95%	63.3%	53.3%	47.9%
Number of Top Private Schools	23	411	235	120
Average Tuition of Top Private Schools	\$29,824.00	\$7,619 for Elementary; \$16,080 for High School	\$7,427 for Elementary; \$12,115 for High School	\$18,927 for Elementary; \$28,086 for High School
Enrollment in Private Schools	3,584	76,490	49,390	27,034

Figure 4.2: Graph of Chicago Black-White Dissimilarity Indices

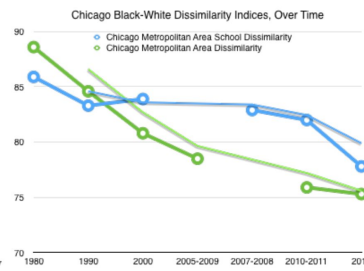


Figure 6.2: San Francisco Black-White Dissimilarity Indices

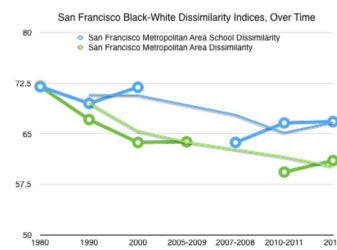


Figure 9b: Table of Comparisons of Metropolitan Area Schools, Continued

	Boston	Chicago	Philadelphia ³	San Francisco ⁴
Percent Enrolled in Private School	4.8%	13.4%	20.7%	23.4%
Minority Enrollment in Private Schools	29%	50%	47%	51%
Number of Charter Schools	29	126	100	14
Enrollment in Charter Schools	10,356	57,057	72,377	7,671
Percent Enrolled in Charter School	13.9%	10%	30.4%	6.8%
Minority Enrollment in Charter Schools	87.6%	98%	87%	88.7%
Number of Magnet Schools	3 exam schools		73	38

Boston Timeline:

1988: court-ended busing; implementation of zoned plan
 1999: racial assignment and zoning end; Controlled Choice
 2005: Home-based system
 2012: Controlled Choice ends
 2013: busing programs dramatically reduced (voluntary)

Chicago Timeline:

1980: consent decree required voluntary desegregation plan using race based admissions and racial caps
 2009: consent decree ends, district regains control: no racial caps or admissions

Philadelphia Timeline:

1970s: voluntary plan with integration goals
 2000: charter schools authorized (1997 Amend Charter Schools Act) and proliferated

2006: voluntary busing discontinued

San Francisco Timeline:

1983: consent decree racial enrollment limits and action taken to desegregate historically segregated schools
 1994: use of race in assignment ruled against in Court
 2001: consent decree amended; race-based admissions eliminated and replaced with diversity index
 2005: new consent decree was not renewed; district control
 2010: school choice program with explicit integration goals

Figure 10.2: Graph of School and Metropolitan Area Demographics

