

Educational Disparities In America



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What is the problem?

Educational Inequality

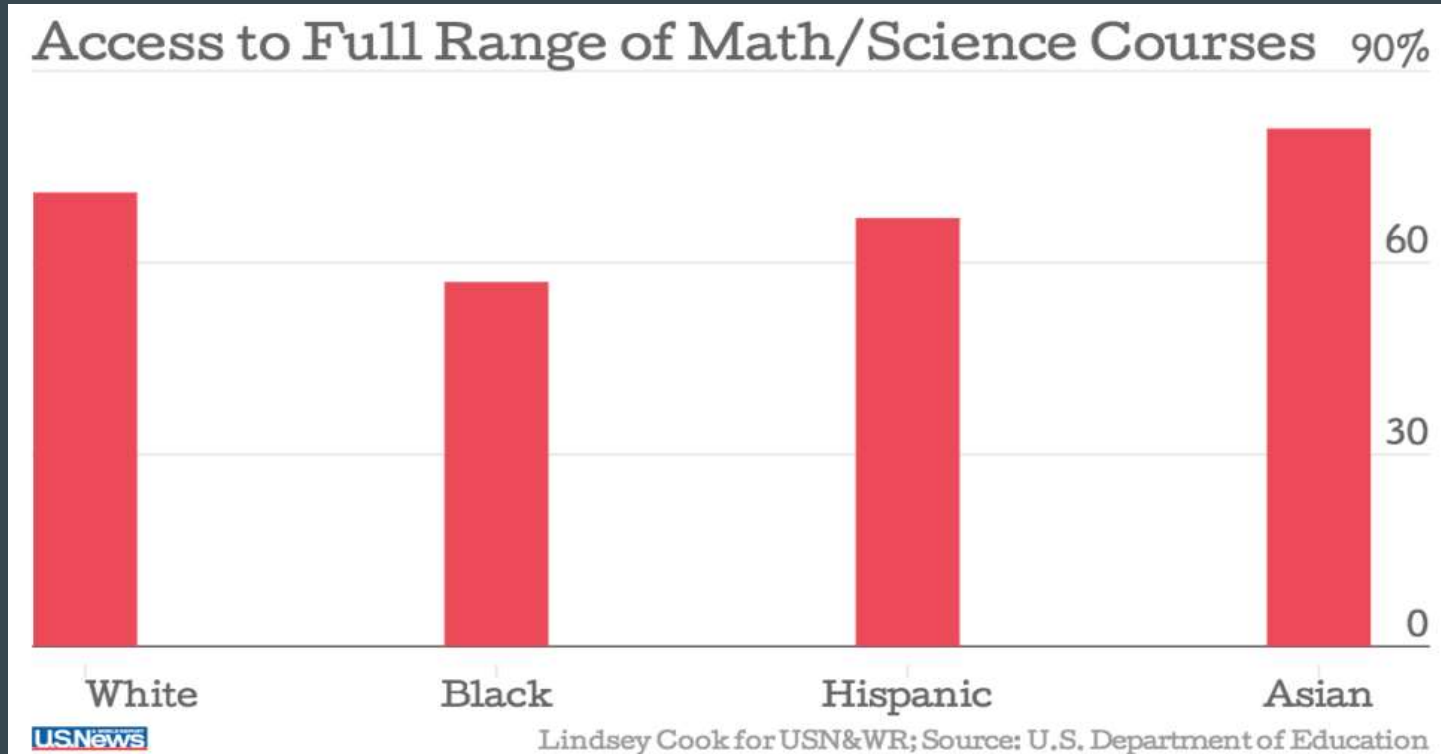
Different accessibility to resources

Teacher hiring practices/ tenure

Extreme disparities in student performance

Lack of Government funding

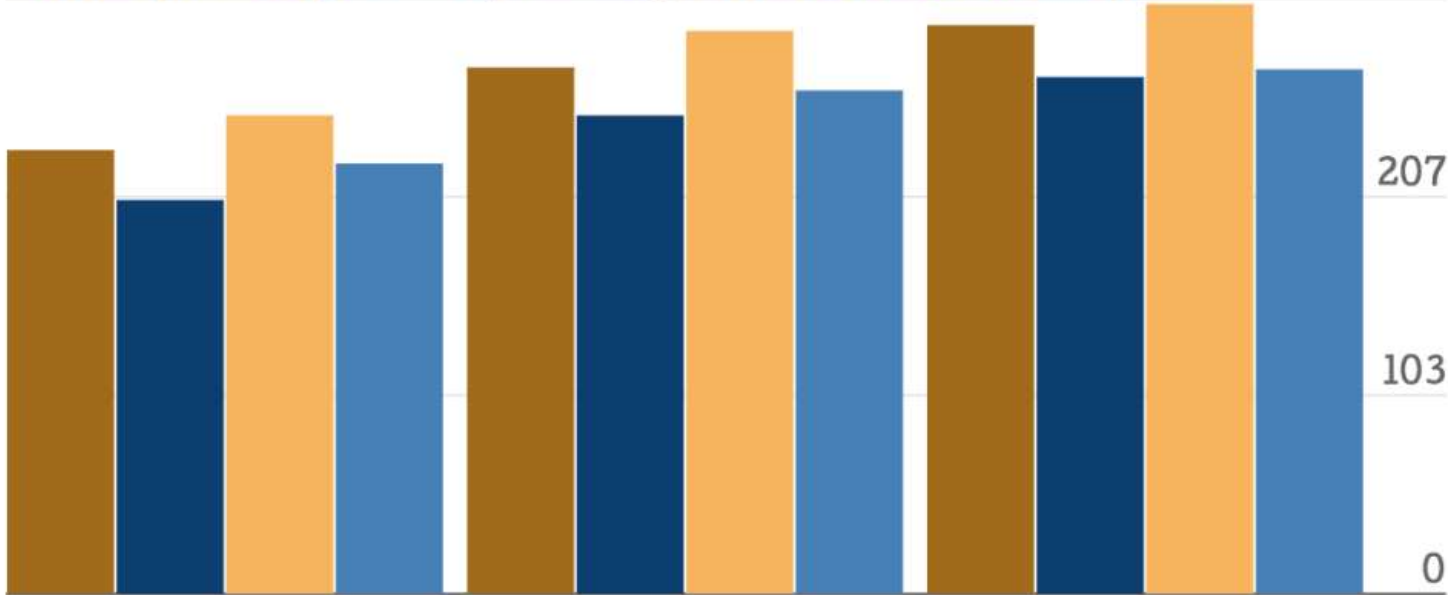
Accessibility



Disparities: Performance

Average Reading and Math Scaled Scores

■ White, Reading ■ Black, Reading ■ White, Math ■ Black, Math

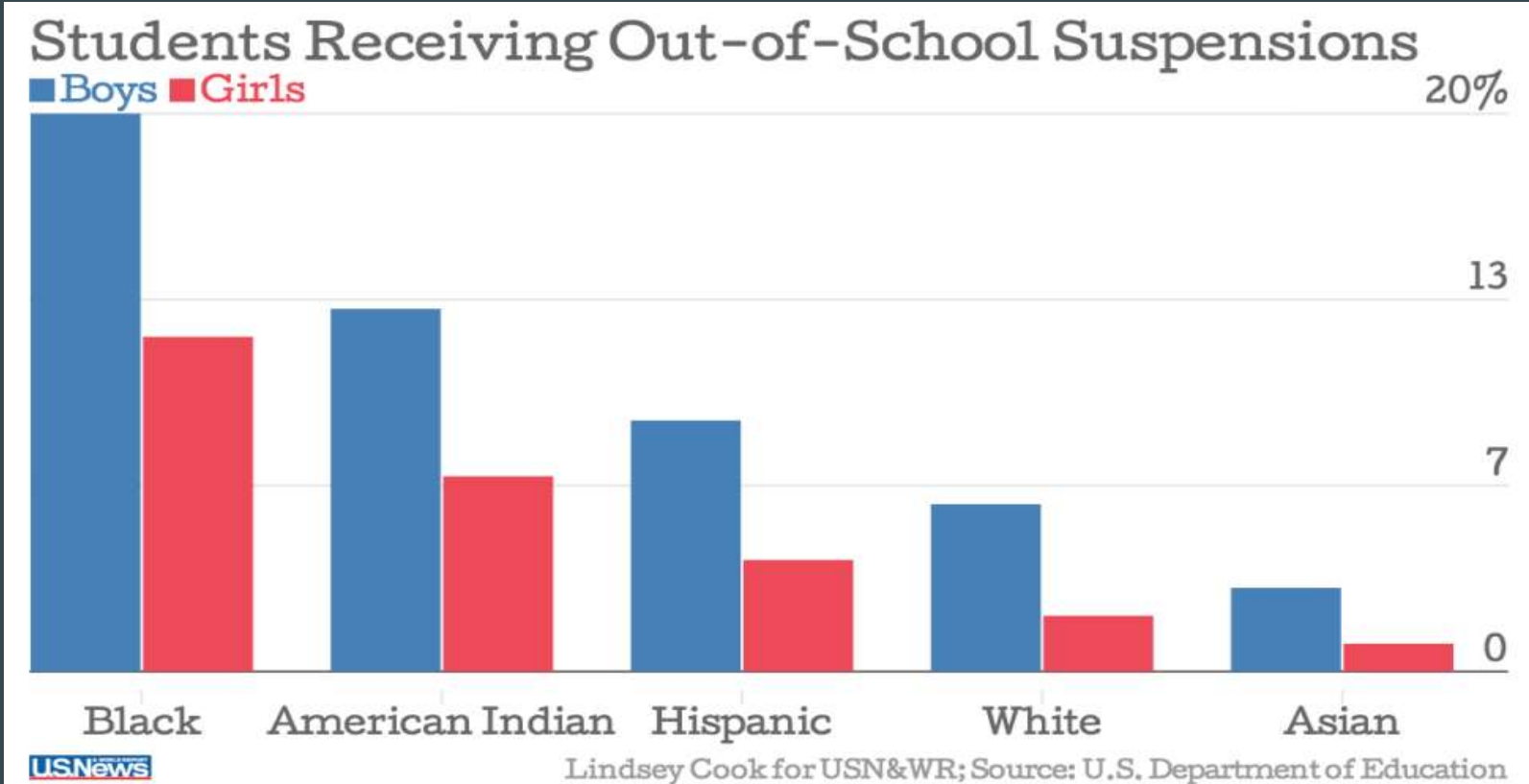


4th Grade

8th Grade

12th Grade

Disparities: Discipline



Power

Legitimacy

Test scores making schools legitimate

No Child Left Behind and other Education Laws

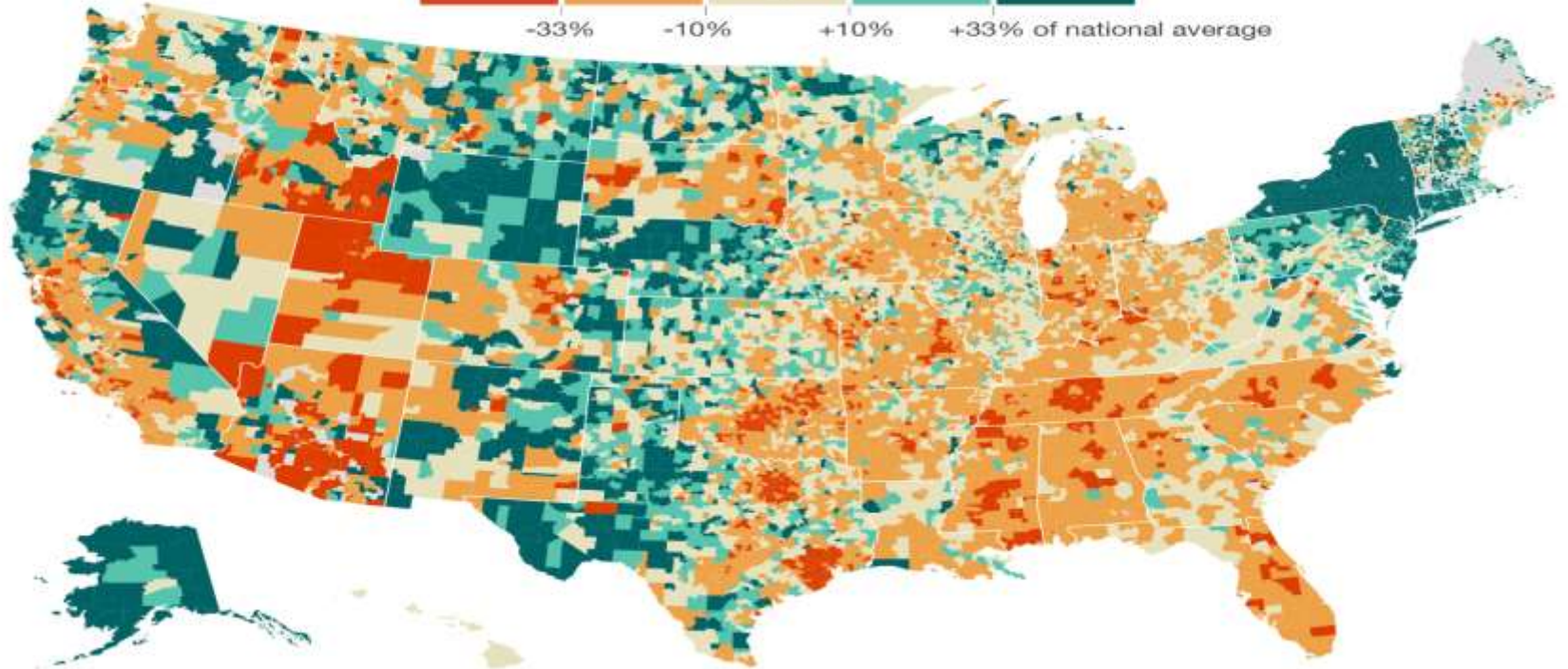
Correlation between taxpayer districts and school
districts

School and Taxpayer Districts

SPENDING PER STUDENT, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adjusted for regional differences, for primary and unified school districts

National average: \$11,841



NPR Article: Link

<http://www.npr.org/2016/04/18/474256366/why-americas-schools-have-a-money-problem>

Power

Resources

Allocation is based on wealth

Based on taxes

Schools have more resources in more wealthy communities

People who control resources live in the same areas making it hard to distribute the monetary resources for the schools

Power

Referent: social power based on identification

Based on neighborhood location

Preferential treatment for school admissions

Private schools have high tuition = prestige

Power

Stereotypes

Play roles in neighborhood race make-up

Deservingness

984/1,000 whites live and stay in mostly white neighborhoods

Avoid mixed communities

Also play a role in which schools are selected by parents for their children

Based on test-scores

Based on “reputations”

Solutions?

School choice: New Orleans case example

Different from other areas because of hurricane circumstances

Population is more disadvantaged due to this

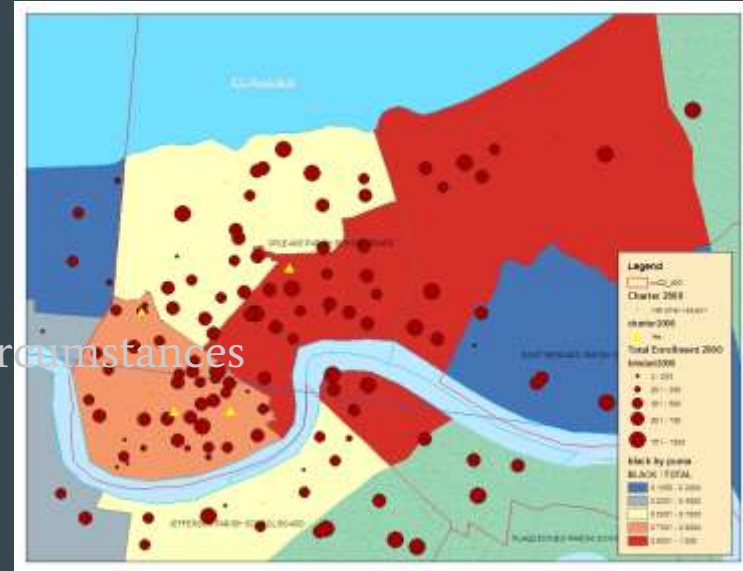
New system that allows charter schools to work

Closing failing schools

Most of the schools are charter schools

Accountability system

Decisions made at school-level



How to implement in CT

Federal funding proposals to increase school choice options

Will need amendment to constitutions

Suggestions:

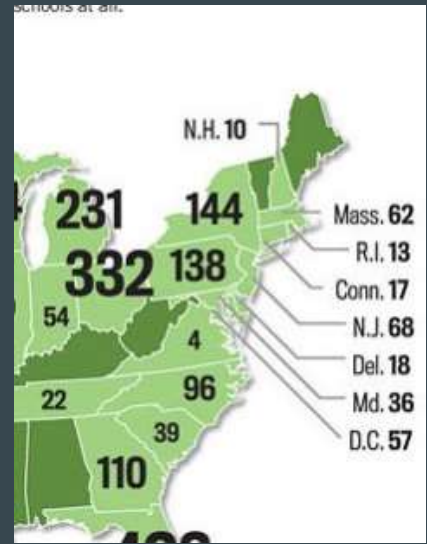
Keep buildings, but remodel into charter schools

Get Teach for America involved

Train current teachers on specific content areas

Allow choice

Mimic accountability system in New Orleans



Solutions?

Open Educational Resources (OER)

- Not to replace lessons, rather to supplement
- Shown to be of use for science topics (Islim & Koybasi, 2016)
 - General Physics Lab videos
 - Participants were given resources
 - How many used them?
 - What they were used for?
 - Assessed length of time watched on YouTube

OER Table

Table 4
Reasons for OER Use

Reasons of Usage	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Readiness for experiments	244	34.4	90.4
Both readiness and review	14	2.0	5.2
Review of experiments	9	1.3	3.3
Other	3	0.4	1.1
Total	270	38.0	100.0

How will this help?

Difficulty bringing resources to low income areas

Invest in computers rather than books

Grants for technology

<https://positivelearning.com/blog/2016/2/11/7-ways-to-get-funding-and-grants-for-technology-in-your-classroom>

Accessing books online: <https://www.gutenberg.org/>

Video supplements: <https://www.khanacademy.org/welcome>

Online Certifications: <https://alison.com/>



Solutions?

Teach for America

“Our mission is to enlist, develop, and mobilize as many as possible of our nation’s most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence.”

Teach for America's Approach

Enlist

Develop

Mobilize



Conclusion

Curriculum:

Add more OER

Hiring/faculty:

Consider alternatives like Teach for America

Higher qualifications for teachers, more checks

School Choice:

Give choice for school and allocate funding according to where each child goes

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