What is the problem?

Educational Inequality

- Different accessibility to resources
- Teacher hiring practices/ tenure
- Extreme disparities in student performance
- Lack of Government funding
Accessability

Access to Full Range of Math/Science Courses 90%

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian

Source: U.S. Department of Education
Disparities: Performance

Average Reading and Math Scaled Scores

- White, Reading
- Black, Reading
- White, Math
- Black, Math

4th Grade
8th Grade
12th Grade

Lindsey Cook for USN&WR; Source: U.S. Department of Education
Disparities: Discipline

Students Receiving Out-of-School Suspensions

- Boys
- Girls

Lindsey Cook for USN&WR; Source: U.S. Department of Education
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

-33%  -10%  +10%  +33% of national average
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 (Islam & 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
    - Found that videos 5 minutes or less
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<th>Reasons of Usage</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>270</td>
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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
References


