Reclaiming the Promise of *Brown*:

**THE INTEGRATION OF DESSEGREGATION & SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM**

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Bring the impacts of segregation into focus
3 Myths of School Integration

1. We tried it for a very long time

2. It didn’t work

3. No longer relevant
3 **Truths** of School Integration

1. We tried it for ~15 yrs

2. It *worked*

3. *Highly relevant today*
School Segregation, 1952

- **Legal Segregation Required**
- **Legal Segregation Permitted**
- **Legal Segregation Prohibited**
- **No Specific Legislation on Segregation**

- Star represents the location of the case that formed Brown v. Board of Education.
Effect of Court-Ordered School Desegregation on Racial School Segregation

Change in Racial Segregation Average During School-Age Years

0%
-10%
-20%
-30%

Years Before Court Order

Court Order Takes Effect

Number of School-Age Exposure Years

Exposed All K–12 Years

Years Relative to Court Order

-8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
Effect of Court-Ordered School Desegregation on School Spending for Blacks

-6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18
Years Relative to Court Order

-5% 0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25%
Change in District Per-Pupil Spending Average During School-Age Years

Number of School-Age Exposure Years

Court Order Takes Effect

Years Before Court Order

Exposed All K–12 Years
Effect of Court-Ordered School Desegregation on Adult Wages, by Race, Ages 20–50

- **Change in Wages**
  - Blacks
  - Whites

**Years Before Court Order**

**Court Order Takes Effect**

**Number of School-Age Exposure Years**

**Exposed All K–12 Years**

**Years Relative to Court Order**

-8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

0% 10% 20% 30%

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*Note: The graph shows the change in wages over years before and after the court order for both blacks and whites, illustrating the effect of desegregation on adult wages.*
Effect of Court-Ordered School Desegregation on Annual Incidence of Poverty in Adulthood, by Race

Percentage Point Change in Annual Likelihood of Poverty

-8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

Years Relative to Court Order

Years Before Court Order

Number of School-Age Exposure Years

Exposed All K-12 Years

Court Order Takes Effect

Black

White

-30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30

-8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16

Years Relative to Court Order
Hispanic students also benefit from court-ordered integration. For Mexican-American students, participating in desegregation led to a significant increase in educational attainment.

- Completed nearly a full year more of schooling
- 20% increase in likelihood of graduation

Source: The Long-Run Impacts of Mexican-American School Desegregation, Francisca Antman and Kalena Cortes (2022)
“Improved school resources explained a significant amount of the beneficial effects of desegregation.”

When court-ordered desegregation did not lead to meaningful spending increases for Black children, the educational and socioeconomic improvements did not materialize.

"People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
### Acknowledging Concerns

#### Problematic Beliefs and Framing
- Valuing proximity to whiteness
- Assimilationist goals
- Predominantly black and Hispanic schools cannot provide a high-quality education

#### Black and Hispanic Student Experiences
- Long commutes
- Unwelcoming, unsafe schools
- Within school segregation and tracking
- Lack racial diversity of teachers

#### Impact on Communities of Color
- Loss of schools as neighborhood centers
- Elimination of highly-valued jobs for black teachers
School and district boundaries that segregate students by race and socioeconomic status are major impediments to resource equity.

Segregation Increases Overall Cost
Adequately funding schools with concentrated poverty is extremely expensive.

Segregation Increases Need for Redistribution
Redistribution is politically unpopular. State policy doesn’t adequately address inter-district tax inequities.

Segregation Ensures Funding Equity is Not Resource Equity
Teacher churn, insufficient access to rigorous coursework, and overreliance on exclusionary discipline remain.
Contemporary Policy Influences on School Segregation

- **Education Policies**
  - School closing, unreg. charters
  - Gerrymandered school boundaries
  - Student assignment racialized tracking

- **Housing Policies**
  - Zoning policies
  - Provision of gov't services
  - Housing subsidies

- **Private Actions (regulated by gov't policies)**
  - Real estate practices
  - Mortgage/lending

- **Legacy of prior gov't policies**
  - Restrictive covenants
  - Segregated housing projects
  - Transportation infrastructure
Desegregated Schools, Segregated Classrooms

Overall racial composition of magnet school

Segregation level of the classroom
Thank you!!!
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