

A WIN-WIN SOLUTION PART IV: RACIAL SEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS



What opponents say: School choice will exacerbate racial segregation in schools.

What the facts say: Racial segregation in school is already at epidemic levels in the government monopoly system. School choice is a tool for breaking down segregation.

What the studies show: There have been 10 studies using valid empirical methods to examine school choice and racial segregation in schools. Nine of those studies find school choice moves students into less racially segregated classrooms. The remaining study finds school choice has no visible effect on racial segregation. None finds choice increases racial segregation.

Location	Author	Year	Results		
			Positive Effect	No Visible Effect	Negative Effect
Louisiana	Egalite et. al.	2016	X		
Louisiana	Egalite & Mills	2014	X		
Milwaukee	Greene et. al.	2010		X	
Milwaukee	Forster	2006	X		
Cleveland	Forster	2006	X		
D.C.	Greene & Winters	2005	X		
Milwaukee	Fuller & Greiveldinger	2002	X		
Milwaukee	Fuller & Mitchell	2000	X		
Milwaukee	Fuller & Mitchell	1999	X		
Cleveland	Greene	1999	X		

Note: This table shows all empirical studies using all methods; the total effect on segregation in all schools is referenced.

Conclusion: Public schools have been growing more racially segregated for some time. Paradoxically, this is happening even as residential segregation has declined. Understandably, racial segregation in schools is an increasing concern. The issue of school choice and racial segregation involves a number of interlocking societal concerns. Public schools are intractably segregated by race, mostly because students are assigned to schools based on where they live. School choice has the potential to break down those residential barriers.

Source: Greg Forster, A Win-Win Solution: The Empirical Evidence on School Choice, 4th ed. (Indianapolis: Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, 2016).