Enrollment

- The share of white students enrolled in public schools almost declined by 9% points, from 80.4% in 1989-1990 to 71.7% in 2010-2011.
- The overall share of black student enrollment slightly increased by 3% points from 15.3% in 1989 to 18.3% in 2010.
- The Asian share of enrollment increased by 150% and Latino share of enrollment increased close to 100% over the last 20 years.

Figure 1
Public School Enrollment by Race

Note: American Indian is included in "other". Total metro enrollment in 1989 was 163,482. In 2010, total enrollment was 158,599.
Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD),

- The share of white enrollment in both urban and suburban schools has decreased since 1989-1990 while the share of black, Asian, and Latino enrollment has increased, particularly in urban schools.
- In 2010-2011, despite their 72% metro enrollment, white students comprised only 41% of the enrollment in urban schools.
- In 2010-2011, the share of black students in urban schools was 10 times the share in suburban schools.
- In 2010-2011, the share of Latino students in urban schools was over four times the share in suburban schools.
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Table 1 Public School Enrollment by School Urbanicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban Schools</th>
<th>Suburban Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Urban schools refer to those inside an urbanized area and a principal city. Suburban schools refer to those inside an urbanized area but outside a principal city. Other includes American Indian students and students who identify with two or more races. Data comprises schools open 1989-2010, 1989-1999-2010, 1999-2010, and only 2010. We apply 2010 boundary codes to all years.


Concentration

- The percentage of multiracial schools across the metro—schools in which at least one-tenth of the students represent at least three racial groups—has increased over the last two decades but so has the percentage of intensely-segregated schools—those that are 90-100% minority students.
- In 1989, less than 2% of schools were intensely-segregated schools. In 2010, 13% were such schools.
- Over the last 20 years, the percentage of schools majority-minority schools—those that are 50-100% minority students, has remained somewhat constant at around 20%.

Table 2 Number and Percentage of Multi-Racial and Minority Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Schools</th>
<th>% of Multi-Racial Schools</th>
<th>% of 50-100% Minority Schools</th>
<th>% of 90-100% Minority Schools</th>
<th>% of 99-100% Minority Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Note Blank cells represent no schools. Minority school represents black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian students. Multi-racial schools are those with any three races representing 10% or more of the total student enrollment respectively.


- The largest proportion of students who were low-income were in intensely-segregated schools, close to triple the proportion of low-income students for the entire metro in 1999 and over double in 2010.

Table 3 Percentage of Students who are Low-Income in Multi-Racial and Minority Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>in Multi-Racial Schools</td>
<td>in 50-100% Minority Schools</td>
<td>in 90-100% Minority Schools</td>
<td>in 99-100% Minority Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>83.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Blank cells represent no schools. Minority school represents black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian students. Multi-racial schools are those with any three races representing 10% or more of the total student enrollment respectively.


- Over the last two decades, the share of black students who were enrolled in intensely-segregated schools has steadily increased.
- Over two out of five black students across the metro attended a school with less than 10% of white students in 2010, even though there are over 70% of white students across the entire metro.
- Over the last two decades, around 70% of black students attend a school with less than 50% white students.
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Figure 2 Black Students in Minority Segregated Schools

Note: Minority school represents black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian students.

- Similarly, over the last two decades, the share of Latino students who were enrolled in intensely-segregated schools has steadily increased.
- Over one out of three Latino students across the metro attended a school with less than 10% of white students in 2010, even though there are over 70% of white students across the entire metro.
- The share of Latinos in majority-minority school settings has decreased over the last two decades.
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Figure 3 Latino Students in Minority Segregated Schools

Note: Minority school represents black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian students.

- Since 1989, the proportion Latino and American Indian attending multiracial schools—those that have any three races representing at least one-tenth of the total school enrollment—have decreased, particularly for Latinos, as the proportion black, Asian, and white students attending such schools have increased.
- In 2010-2011, only 4% of white students attended multiracial schools, but near a third of Asians or Latinos, and 20% of blacks attended such schools.
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Figure 4 Students in Multi-Racial Schools by Race

Note: Multi-racial schools are those with any three races representing 10% or more of the total student enrollment respectively.


Exposure

• White students are overexposed to other white students, and this disproportion has widened instead of narrowed over the last 20 years, as proportion white has declined faster than white isolation rates.
• Over the last two decades, the typical black student remains underexposed to white students, and this limited contact has decreased faster than the decline of proportionate white.
Figure 5 *White Students in School Attended by Typical Student of Each Race*

![Bar chart showing the percentage of white students in schools attended by typical students of different races across three time periods: 1989-1990, 1999-2000, and 2010-2011.]

**Note:** Less than 5% Latino enrollment across time periods.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey Data

- The racial composition of the school that a typical black student attends has shifted over the last two decades, changing to less white, but more black.
- Despite the fact that the overall metro share of enrollment is 72% white and 18% black, the typical black student attended a school in 2010 with only 30% white and 57% black classmates.
Figure 6 Racial Composition of School Attended by Typical Black Student


- In 2010, the typical black student attended school with more than double the percentage of low-income students than the typical white student.
- The typical white student attended a school with only 30% low-income students, 25% lower than the average proportion of low-income students in the metro.
- The typical black student attended a school with 73% low-income students, 83% higher than the average proportion of low-income students in the metro.
- This data show the disproportionate distribution of low-income students to schools where black students attend.
Figure 7 Exposure to Low-Income Students by Race


Evenness
- Over the last two decades, the average school remains 40% less diverse than the entire metropolitan area, indicating an extreme degree of persisting segregation.
- This uneven distribution of racial groups throughout the area’s public schools occurred mostly between schools districts (84% average) rather than within school districts, suggesting the need for interdistrict policies for racial integration.

Table 4 Multi-Group Entropy Index Values, Overall and Within/Between School Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>H</th>
<th>HW</th>
<th>HB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: H=Multi-Group Entropy Index or Theil’s H. HW= the degree of un/evenness (H) that is within (W) districts. HB= the degree of un/evenness (H) that is between (B) districts.
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- The uneven distribution of white and black students across schools in the metro has been extreme and persisting over the last two decades.

Figure 8 Differential Distribution (Dissimilarity) of Racial Students across Public Schools