

Tacianna Daley  
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Professor Frietas  
Advocacy

Daley 1

### Equality of Minorities in the Education System

The inequality in education is an issue that minorities have faced throughout American History. Many are familiar with famous cases such as Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. This supreme court case marked a turning point in American history deeming racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. However, in modern times the right of integrated public schools is being compromised. Public schools are separated by school districts. According to the NYC department of education, students are assigned to a school within a zone that is based on the home address. It's evident that the quality of education varies based on what school district the child is located in. In communities where the majority of Minority families reside, schools often lack resources in comparison to schools that's in what are considered upscale, predominantly white neighborhoods. Minority families often go against their child's assigned school district causing an increase in residency fraud. Many families are dedicated to be able to provide their child with the best possible education regardless of consequences. By students being stuck in failing school districts because of a families residence results in a modern day segregation of schools. I advocate for the equality of minorities in the education system. I believe that all students regardless of where they reside are entitled to adequate and equal education.

Minority students in Early Education Programs who reside in underfunded school districts are greatly impacted and victimized by the inequality within their education. Early

Childhood programs are the most crucial experiences and necessary experiences within a child's life. Sufficient early education programs with all necessary resources results in a child benefiting from knowledge to set up a child for future academic, social, and emotional success. Schools in underprivileged school districts often miss out on the resources to promote academic success. Some of those contributing factors include larger class sizes, fewer funding to fund necessary items such as books and teaching resources, and effective training to ensure quality teachers. Minority families are likely to face social issues like poverty, family instability, and crime at higher rates compared to white students. These factors have a great impact on the quality of education minorities receive. It is commonly recognized that minorities are affected by the achievement gap which is a cause of neglect of urban school.

The achievement gap is explained as a vast difference in academic success between two groups of students. In this case, Blacks and Hispanics in comparison to white students are showing drastic differences in grades, standardized-test scores, dropout rates, and college-completion rates. Over time there have been several attempts to close the achievement gap for minorities. However, these efforts mainly focused on High school and higher education. I believe to effectively close the education gap and provide equal and substantial education for all minorities the focus should be on Early Education programs. Early Educational programs are fundamental and necessary for children. According to the National Education Association, statistics show students that attend ECE programs are likely to make children prepared academically for later grades, more likely to graduate from high school, and lead to high paying jobs. These programs are not only beneficial to the child however to the families. Parents are

able to learn crucial skills to support their child throughout their academic journey. Over time, educators begin to realize the benefit that family engagement has a crucial impact on children. However the misconception some might have is family engagement ends with Early childhood programs. However, parents being involved in their child's learning experience from early in their child education will likely remain involved. I believe if funding and political attention was placed in Early Childhood programs within minority communities that will create equal education for minorities ultimately eliminating that achievement gap for children of color.

After decades of the inequality and neglect of minorities in education it is crucial that action is taken now. Since the beginning of American history the system is constantly failing Minorities. Proper funding to create high quality early education programs will become a start to being able to provide for minorities a fair start at life. This funding can provide books, learning resources, early intervention programs such as speech, ESL, and psychological and counseling services. For equality to be a reality I believe the mayor and school chancellor should be involved. On a political stance to have those individuals invested in this issue can lead to the overall goal. However, for this cause I believe that I should start by informing and guiding parents to help support. Parents are their child's biggest advocate. By them being informed and actively advocating for the equality of their child's education this issue will be pushed to a high agenda for politicians.

The article "Making School Integration work in New York City Schools" Attest to the fact that NYC has one of the most segregated school districts within the entire country. The article argues that legal and policy reform should be used strategically with other integration techniques to make New York City Schools equitable. To combat the issue of racial inequality

with schools the article suggests DOE schools adopting a modified version of the Princeton Plan as early as Early Education programs. The idea of the Princeton plan is to eliminate the creation of school districts by residence but by grade. There will be smaller individualized schools that have a specific focus grade. The goal of the Princeton Plan is to reroute the focus being on where the child resides and create distinct based on the child grade. With this plan all students regardless of what community they reside will be able to go to school throughout the city. The article believes this solution will be feasible and acceptable to advantage residents who believe they are entitled to premium value in certain school areas. I believe the school district restrictions separates children and creates unequal schools. I believe the Princeton Method would be effective for providing equality in schools.

In the book "African American Children in Early Childhood Education: Making the Case for Policy Investments in Families, Schools, and Communities" ' Author Stephenie Curtton discusses the value of Early childhood education, emphasizing how necessary it is for African American children. A chapter from this book entitled "Striving for education equality" the author addresses the language, cognitive, social-emotional, and health development of black children from birth to age 8. Social challenges that are most common in minorities plays a role in how African American children meet these developmental milestones in comparison to White Children. Which is why early intervention and education programs are most beneficial and necessary for African American students to help them thrive towards a successful educational path. The author and I share the same beliefs and recognize the issue of inequality of African Americans within education. Mainly due to racial injustices and describing the segregation of education using districts as the barriers. The chapter promotes the approach of educating parents

of black preschoolers to be able to teach and provide quality education to their own child.

Although there are known benefits of homeschool I do not believe this will be an effective approach at resolving the issue of inequality for minorities. Early childhood aged children thrive from social interaction from classroom environments. Something that homeschooling would not be able to sufficiently provide. Equality does not mean separation. We should work together to create an education system that will make an impact on all children. No parent should have to resort to homeschooling to seek an equal education.

I will crucially rely on social media to be able to share and bring awareness to the issue of the unjust and inequality of minorities in education. Social media is something that is becoming a huge part of everyday life. Social media provides you with a direct connection with your audience and allows you at greater number that we have not been able to do in the past. I plan to use social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and TIK TOK to post videos with the purpose of educating others. for several reasons including providing information on my advocacy topic. I will be able to relate my topic to the public to bring attention to the cause and develop supporters. There is power in numbers. Social media is a great source to begin to network with individuals that feel as passionate about my advocacy issue. Gaining supporters will come to my advantage for recruitment for volunteers to bring action to make reform to the issue. As mentioned, my post will be directed towards parents of minorities. I believe parents are a child's biggest supporter and advocate. By having the parents full support throughout my advocacy. Small steps will be taken in leading to my larger advocacy plan.

By taking small steps I will receive the attention and support of different Politicians and the Chancellor to make changes that will greatly impact the lives of Minorities in Education. To be able to combat the issue of inequality of minorities in the education system is to provide

schools with equal and sufficient resources. I create fundraisers and create plans for politicians to help support the cause by donating books and supplies to disadvantaged programs. Also with sufficient training and professional developments will help teachers and staff to become better educators. I believe in all schools having access to extracurricular activities, sport programs and academic support programs to provide structure for inner city youth. With support of fundraisers, politicians and educational leaders I plan to raise 5 million dollars to be able to start to address my advocacy issue.

The issue of inequality in education is something that I chose to discuss because I was once a child within the education system and noticed the many flaws towards minorities such as myself. For one, I never attended an Early Childhood Program because my mother and many other parents within my community did not understand the benefits that it provides. Early childhood programs within the black community are often viewed as a 'babysitting service' and not essential for the development of a child. Childcare programs in my community are often underfunded, lacking supplies and qualified teachers. Which feeds into the notion that Early childhood is not important because to society it is not important enough to receive the same resources as upper class predominantly white neighborhoods receive. This issue recently resurfaced in my life when attempting to find a suitable childcare program for my own child. Programs that attend to my child's developmental needs are often out of my community and unaffordable. I believe all children should have the right to sufficient education and resources and with my advocacy plan I plan to break this ongoing cycle.

Cite Page

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