

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG STORY

YESTERDAY

1954

Brown – U.S Supreme Court declares separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and unconstitutional.

1971
INTEGRATION

1971

Swann – U.S. Supreme court declares that busing was an appropriate means to achieve racial balance in schools and reaffirms that segregation harms children and causes concentrated educational disadvantage. In the 1970's Charlotte-Mecklenburg became a national model for integration.

1999

Capacchione – Judge Potter rules that CMS had achieved “unitary” status meaning that it had eliminated the former effects of segregation to the “maximum extent practicable.” Charlotte-Mecklenburg adopts a choice based student assignment plan and neighborhood schools leading to a return to pre-1971 segregation levels.

2015

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

2015

[Your name here]

1954

SEGREGATION

1999

CHOICE

TODAY

DID YOU KNOW?

- **1 in 3** CMS schools are segregated by poverty.
- 1 in 2 CMS schools are segregated by race.
- **1 in 5** CMS schools are hyper-segregated by race.
- 1 in 6 CMS schools are imbalanced white.
- **3 out of 4** charter schools are segregated by race
- Our region is **50th out of 50** in terms of economic mobility. Residential segregation and school quality are two of five factors contributing to that ranking.
- The income achievement gap is **double** the black/white achievement gap
- We are **one of the few** urban areas with a diverse, countywide system and the option to be integrated

SEGREGATED SCHOOLS OF POVERTY HARM CHILDREN

- Lower academic performance
- Lower graduation rates
- Decreased college enrollment and graduation
- Lower teacher quality and higher teacher turnover

DIVERSE SCHOOLS BENEFIT ALL CHILDREN

(YES, MIDDLE CLASS AND WHITE CHILDREN TOO)

- Higher occupational aspirations and attainment
- Less likely to be involved in criminal justice system
- Increased civic engagement
- Graduates more likely to live and work in desegregated environments
- Higher lifetime earnings (5 years in integrated schools = 25% higher earnings for black adults)

TOMORROW

HOW DO WE RESPOND AS PEOPLE OF FAITH?

UNDERSTANDING | COMPASSION | JUSTICE

Commit
to
educating
yourself

- Your personal history
- Your faith tradition
- Your neighborhood
- Our community

Engage
with
others
who care

- House of Worship
- School
- Neighborhood
- Workplace or Volunteer Organization

Act to
achieve
educational
equity

- Vote
- Seek diverse schools and neighborhoods for your family
- Write or speak with your local officials
- Work to elect leaders who support educational equity

RESOURCES

Resources are available on the MeckMin website at www.meckmin.org/educationalequity/

QUESTIONS?

Email us at meckmin@meckmin.org