

# School Composition and Achievement

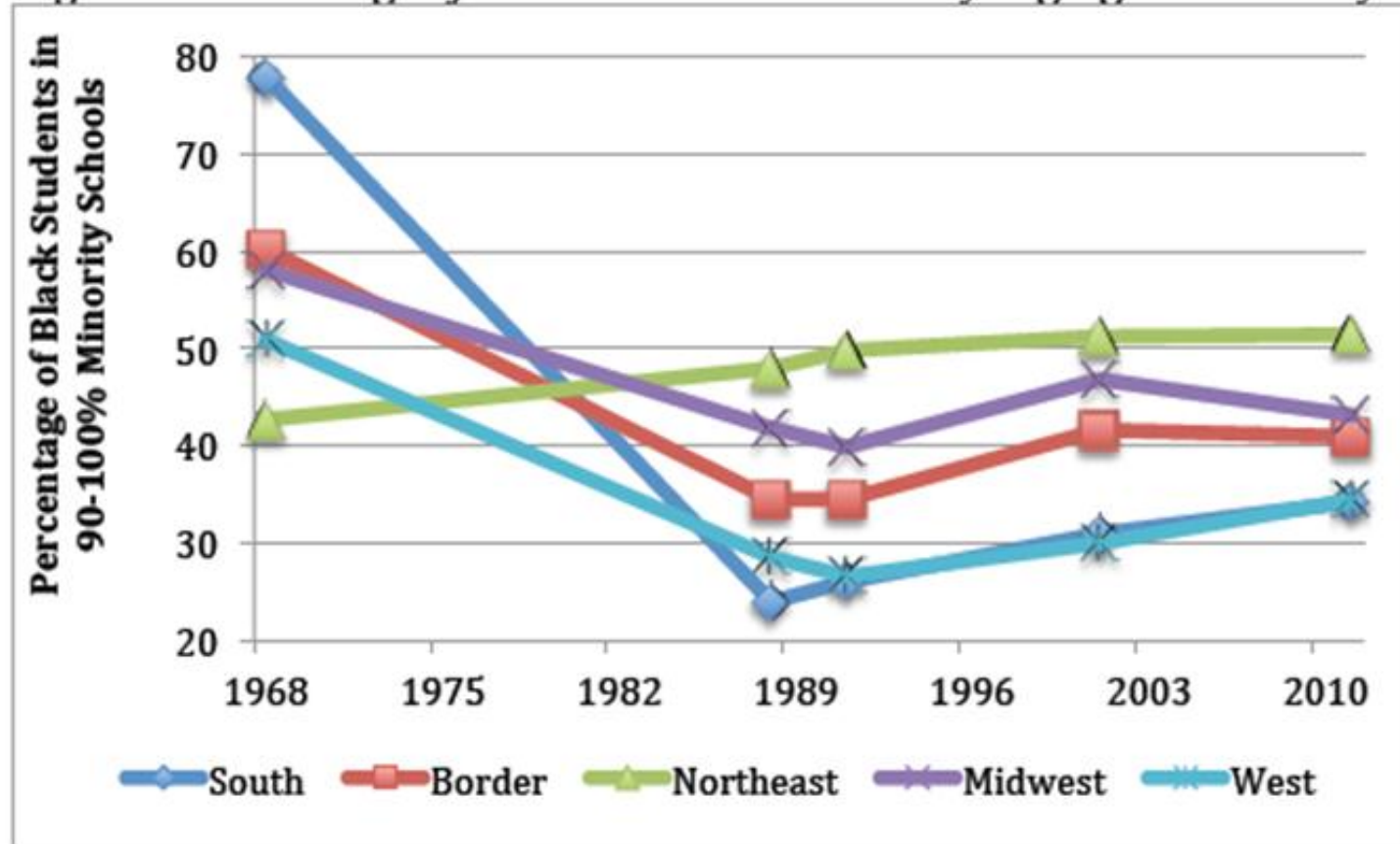
@Education\_AIR | @NASBE  
#EdDiversity

---

Sami Kitmitto

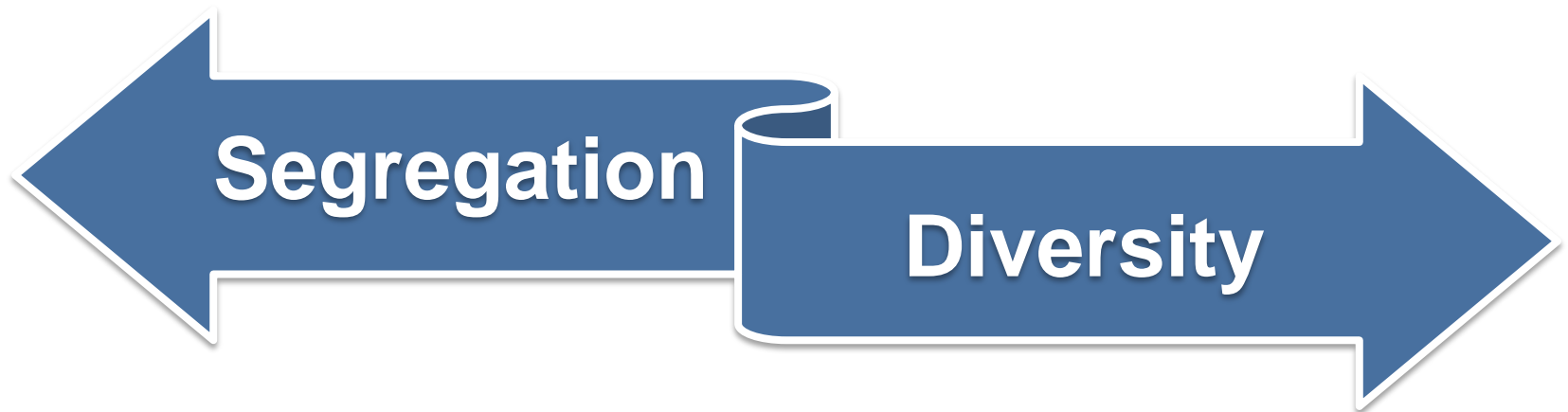
Principal Researcher

**Figure 3: Percentage of Black Students in Intensely Segregated Minority Schools by Region**



*Source:* U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey Data. Data prior to 1991 obtained from the analysis of the Office of Civil Rights data in Orfield, G. (1983). *Public School Desegregation in the United States, 1968-1980*. Washington, D.C.: Joint Center for Political Studies.

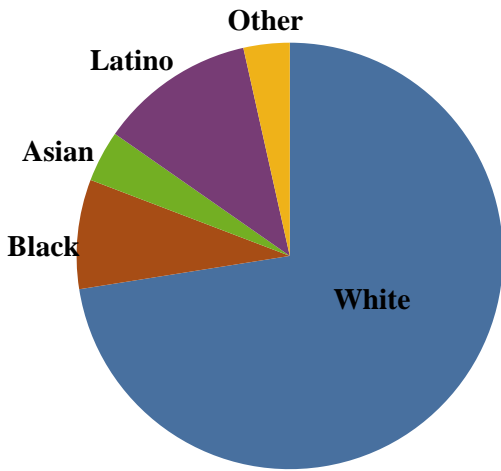
# What is a diverse school?



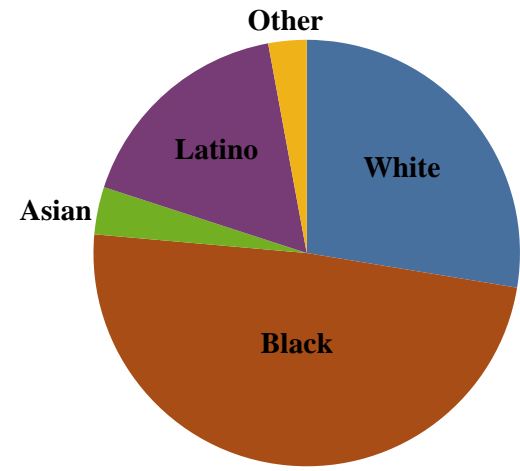
- Many ways to measure segregation, most are relative to an area
  - Relative to what? District, county, state, nation?
- Diversity is not a precise concept
  - What is the goal? Zero segregation?
  - What does a diverse school look like?

# Composition of School for Average Student by Race-Ethnicity, 2011-12

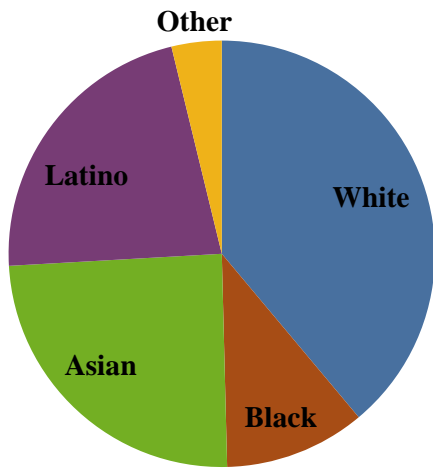
**White Students**



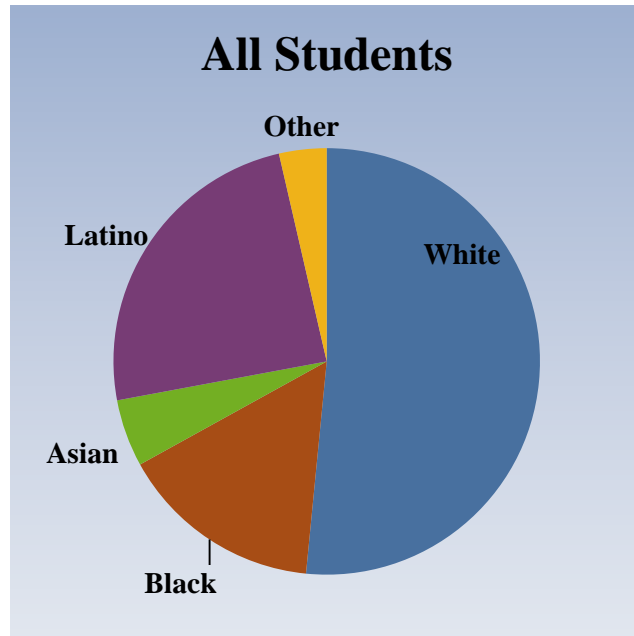
**Black Students**



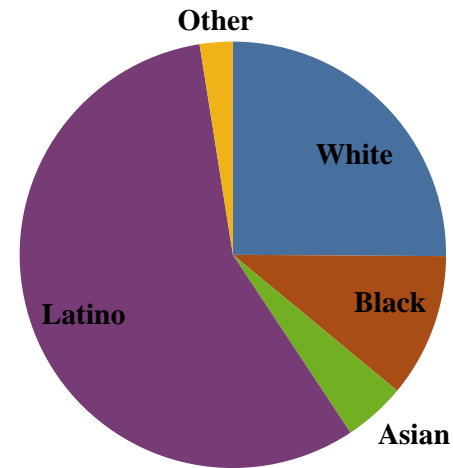
**Asian Students**



**All Students**

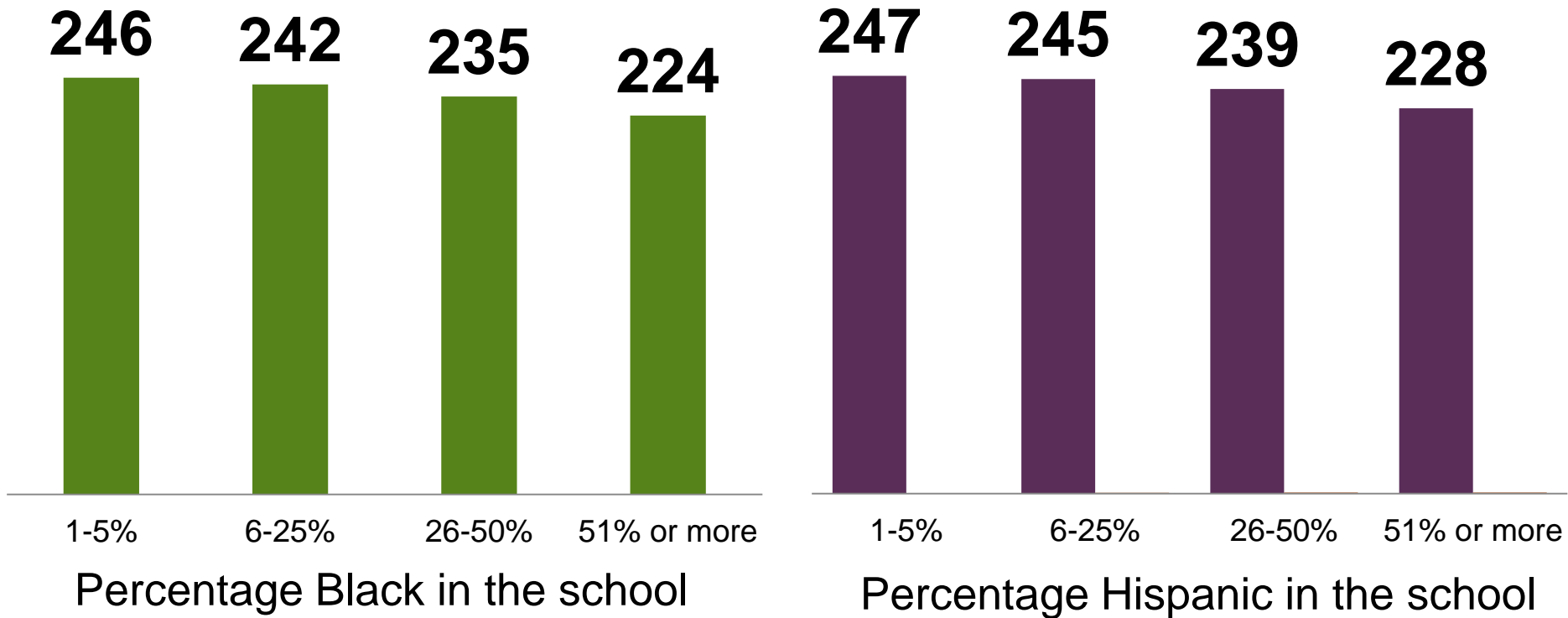


**Latino Students**



# School achievement by percentage of Black or Hispanic students

NAEP Mathematics, Grade 4, 2013



# Why might school composition be related to achievement?

---

- Correlation with the concentration of low-socioeconomic-status students
- Uneven distribution of key academic supports across schools
- Lower expectations for minority students
- Greater use of school discipline reports
- “Oppositional culture”
- Students of all types perform better in diverse schools

# Is having a diverse school enough or is there something more to consider?

- Even if you have a “diverse school” there are concerns about within-school segregation
- How much does it matter what is done in practice with diversity?
  - Bans on ethnic studies (e.g., Arizona)
  - Curricula and practices that are “culturally responsive”



Sami Kitmitto  
650-843-8261  
skitmitto@air.org

2800 Campus Drive, Suite 200  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
General Information: 650-843-8100  
TTY: 650-493-2209  
www.air.org