

21
DAY

RACIAL EQUITY CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 20

DAY 14: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

More than 65 years after the landmark Supreme Court decision in [Brown v. Board of Education](#) declaring racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, studies show that public schools across the United States—including in Monroe County—are just as racially segregated as they were in the Jim Crow era.

One reason for this is the way that school attendance zones are drawn to include, and exclude, families of certain races based on the neighborhoods they live in. While it is illegal to segregate within school districts, it is not uncommon to draw attendance zones that may include or exclude specific neighborhoods. We know that decades of housing and neighborhood discrimination have caused inequities in where people live ([see Day 8 of the Challenge](#)); this has made it even easier to draw attendance zones according to “desirable” or “undesirable” neighborhoods which further separate students based on racial lines.

Concentrations of poverty in the City of Rochester and disparate property tax bases between urban and suburban districts lead to drastically different access to resources and quality of education for local children. Black and Latino families bear the brunt of this problem nationally and locally, with educational opportunities being significantly different across geographical and racial or ethnic lines. Read and interact with the resources below to learn more.

DID YOU KNOW...

Rochester has the most economically segregating school district border in the country, walling off the high-poverty education system from its affluent suburban districts.

[-EdBuild Study via LA School Report](#)

LEARN

Option 1: Read and interact with [School District Borders that Reduce or Perpetuate Segregation](#); most Monroe County school districts are available

Option 2: Watch [How America's Public Schools Keep Kids in Poverty](#)

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REFLECT AND TAKE ACTION

Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- When was the first time you had a teacher who was not the same race as you? Have you ever?
- What were the messages that you received from American history books about cultures other than your own?

Local Ways to Get Involved:

- Register for ROC the Future State of Our Children Address [Equity & Education: The Next Horizon](#)

Share What You Learned:

Use the images below to share what you learned about race and equity today, and be sure to include #ROCequity.

