Institutional Racism: Do We Really Have to Talk about this?

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Interview your neighbor...

What was a time you really felt like you were helping kids (not just your own)?

What was it about that experience that you valued?

What was it about that experience that you would like more of?

Do you think *every child* has an advocate like you?
This will be a difficult conversation...

...you may start feeling upset or like your feelings are being hurt.

That is okay.
Are you sure?
Hold on, are you going to call me racist?
How can there be racism without racists?!
Individual Pollution / Racism
Institutions

Discriminatory Policies

Discriminatory Attitudes

Individuals
https://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/Ejl3YodE21xm1IN
New York State’s Extreme School Segregation: Inequality, Inaction and a Damaged Future

New York has the most segregated schools in the country: in 2009, black and Latino students in the state had the highest concentration in intensely-segregated public schools (less than 10% white enrollment), the lowest exposure to white students, and the most uneven distribution with white students across schools. Heavily impacting these state rankings is New York City, home to the largest and one of the most segregated public school systems in the nation.

https://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/k-12-education/integration-and-diversity/ny-norflet-report-placeholder
Residential segregation

Not *de jure* - as in the South ~50 years ago

Also not “natural” or the product of self-segregation, in general.

“Redlining” as a historical and contemporary practice -

In the United States, **redlining** is the practice of denying services, either directly or through selectively raising prices, to residents of certain areas based on the racial or ethnic composition of those areas. - *wikipedia*
What do you notice? (talk to your partner)
You haven’t proven anything about race! That’s about income!
Race, Income, and Test Scores

% of people who live in district self-identifying as white in 2010 census

/ % of students in public schools identified as white 2015-2016

/ $ spent per gen ed pupil 2015-2016
New York City Public Schools, N.Y.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Grades Ahead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White students</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic students</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black students</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Syracuse City School District, N.Y.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Grades Ahead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White students</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic students</td>
<td>-3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black students</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two possible explanations...

White people are superior. They are smarter and more deserving of higher test scores.

Discriminatory Policies

Institutions  Individuals
The tests are racist!
THE CYCLE OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

Mass school closures are often the result of deliberate decisions to starve schools of resources and then shut them down for failing to do more with less.

1. UNDERFUNDING
On top of recent budget cuts, many schools are funded by local property taxes that leave low-income communities with underfunded schools.

2. STRUGGLE & CLOSURE
When schools are deprived of resources, they can’t provide students with needed supports and opportunities, or meet the high standards set by policymakers. Officials label the schools “underperforming” and close them down.

3. CLOSURE & TRANSFER
Students transfer to other underfunded schools that face similar struggles, overcrowding, and are at risk of closure.

Students pushed out of charter schools mid-year are sent to local public schools, which have to take them in regardless of capacity or funding.

4. BREAK THE CYCLE
Communities across the country are organizing to stop devastating mass school closures and implement alternatives that help all students. Let’s break the cycle. Visit www.otlcampaign.org to learn more.
The Color of School Closures

School closures across the country disproportionately hurt Black and low-income students. Here are three of the worst examples, from this year alone:

**CHICAGO**
49 schools closed

**NEW YORK CITY**
22 schools closed

**PHILADELPHIA**
23 schools closed

**CHICAGO**
- Black: 43% of all Chicago students are Black
- Latino: 44% of all Chicago students are Latino
- Low-income: 76% of all Chicago students are low-income
- White: 8% of all Chicago students are White

**NEW YORK CITY**
- Black: 30% of all NYC students are Black
- Latino: 40% of all NYC students are Latino
- Low-income: 73% of all NYC students are low-income
- White: 14% of all NYC students are White

**PHILADELPHIA**
- Black: 58% of all Philly students are Black
- Latino: 18% of all Philly students are Latino
- Low-income: 61% of all Philly students are low-income
- White: 14% of all Philly students are White

What is the color of school closures in your city? Send us your stories and data.

Find solutions at www.otlcampaign.org

White is defined as “white non-Hispanic.” Low-income students are calculated based on eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Lunch programs.

All percentages from the US Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, 2010-11
School funding
Testing
School Closures
Residential Segregation
Mayoral Control
Testing Residential Segregation School Closures School funding Mayoral Control
Talk to your neighbor...

What does the NYSPTA do to combat institutional racism?

What about your local PTA?

What else could it do?

What specific NYS policies should the NYSPTA advocate for/against?
In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
What can we do?
Continue the conversation...

I am recruiting participants for an participatory research project addressing institutional racism in and around New York State and the PTA.

If you are interested in learning more, and finding new ways of doing something about this, please see me after, so we can exchange contact information.
Continue the conversation
#NYSPTA #institutionalracism

Q1: What is institutional racism?

Q2: What role could the PTA play in combating institutional racism?

Q3: What does your local PTA do to combat institutional racism?

Or anything else! Want to fact check? I’ve got sources!

A1: Institutional Racism describes the system of privileges and disadvantages based on race that live in our institutions #NYSPTA #institutionalracism