

## High School Structure, Bussing, and Inequality in STL

- General overview of school types and options in STL: <https://schoolchoiceweek.com/guide-school-choice-missouri/>
  - Watch the video to get a quick overview of school options in STL
  - Read the article to further understand what options STL high school students have
  - School Types
    - Public Schools
    - Charter Schools
    - Magnet Schools
    - Private Schools
    - Home Schooling
    - Online Schools
    - Learning Pods
  - In the article, a useful website named Project Nickel is mentioned because they can show what any US public school spends per student: <https://projectnickel.com/>
    - I was surprised by how drastic the differences were
- Missouri has restricted open enrollment explained below
  - Students can attend out-of-district schools if the public school in their district is unaccredited
  - Transferring to a different district isn't usually allowed if a student's in-district school is accredited
  - Here is a website that explains what happens when a school is unaccredited in MO
    - <http://hhpdf.s3.amazonaws.com/unaccredited-school.pdf>
    - These students likely face and have faced different struggles than students that have accredited schools in their district
      - One struggle may be farther travel distances

## Inequality in STL High Schools

- Still Separate, Still Unequal – Education Inequality in St. Louis:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRSk29LNork>
  - The video uses a river metaphor to explain what systemic factors cause disparities between majority black and white districts
  - The video was created by an organization named Forward Through Ferguson
    - Forward Through Ferguson is an organization started by regional leaders who were asked by the governor to study racial issues in STL and create solutions after the death of Michael Brown
    - Forward Through Ferguson created an Education Reform Plan in 2020
      - Follow this link to download the report
        - <https://forwardthroughferguson.org/stateofeducationreform/>
          - Highlights the difficulties of creating change in schooling systems and examines what is being done and not being done in St. Louis specifically to address these issues
      - NPR Article about Forward Through Ferguson
        - <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/education/2020-10-01/new-report-examines-deep-racial-inequities-in-st-louis-public-schools>
- Key points
  - Schools are only slightly less segregated now than they were before the Brown v. Board decision, and they're becoming more segregated with time
  - A holistic approach is advocated
    - This is the idea that we must consider not just student's success but their whole well-being
- Other information
  - This article named "Education Inequality in St. Louis" provides specific examples of policies and initiatives that led to inequality
    - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cd33f0ff3c1a414a909e978ff9f30ebd>

## How Could We Benefit and Respond to Knowing this Information?

- If students stop attending because of a feeling of not fitting in or not feeling at home, non-diverse high schools may be a contributing factor
- Knowing and understanding why inequality exists in our area can help us understand our students and what their experience was like
  - Each of our four locations have different demographics and are affected differently by the funding structures that are in place
  - It can be important to consider that some locations are more homogenous than others
- Because of the amount of segregation in St. Louis currently, how could STLCC help students of different races who didn't go to as diverse high schools feel comfortable going to college together?
  - Inclusive events
  - Get to know new people events
  - Events to celebrate and experience other cultures and identities
- There is a lot of data showing that desegregation is good, so I believe that inclusive events that bring together cultures are useful
  - There are some affinity groups at STLCC, such as BMA, that provide individualized support for specific groups, and while there is some debate about how to approach desegregation and inclusion vs individualized support, I think there are benefits and valid critiques to both approaches
    - Sources
      - An article discussing some of the benefits of desegregation
        - <https://tcf.org/content/facts/the-benefits-of-socioeconomically-and-racially-integrated-schools-and-classrooms/?session=1>
      - A peer-reviewed research article discussing the benefits of desegregation
        - <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0193222>
      - Here is an article discussing the benefits of individualized support
        - <https://journals.library.columbia.edu/index.php/cswr/announcement/view/275>
- People with different gender identities, sexualities, disability statuses, veteran statuses, etc. could also benefit from similar approaches

## A Holistic Approach – More Ideas that We Could Potentially Implement

- Could we garner a more holistic approach to student's well-being?
  - This is the idea that we must consider not just student's success but their whole well-being
    - We could team up with SARC more often and provide more information about their services
      - We could invite them to events that we are doing
      - We could add a handout on our tables with information about them

## Extra

- Text-to-Speech Reader
  - My favorite free text-to-speech reader to help me get through long articles and reports  
[\(Click to open\)](#)