



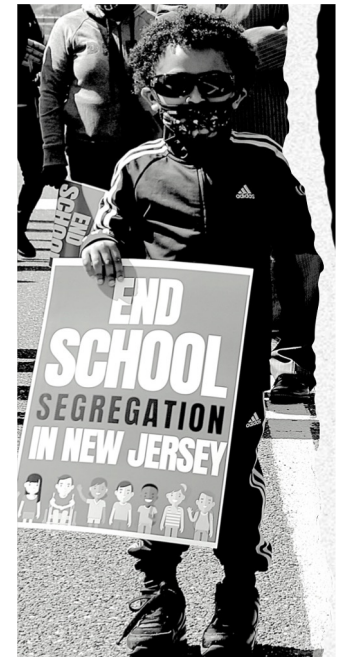
The promise of a fully Inclusive education in the United States of America *the unmet demand*

Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois, Co-Chair of Building One
New Jersey & the Coalition Against Racial Exclusion
NJ-CARE, Pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church,
Pleasantville.

The unmet demand



- Of the 10 demands at the 1963 March, the 1st & the 3rd called for the immediate desegregation of America's public schools.
- As we enter our 6th decade since the march (7 since *Brown* was filed), schools in New Jersey have become some of the most segregated in the nation.
- This was not by accident. It was the result of deliberate policies still in place today. Still segregating our children by both race & poverty while denying them equal opportunity to a decent life.



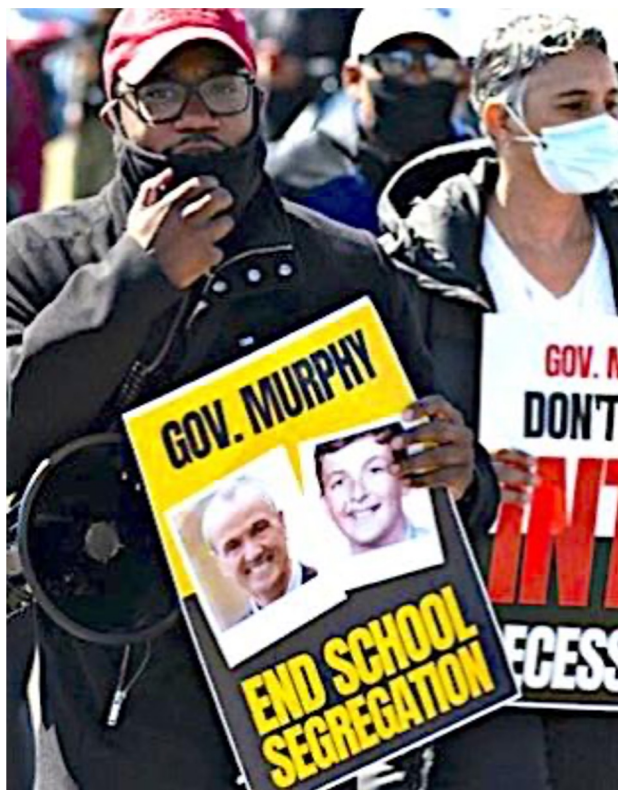
And it's getting worse..

...as concentrated poverty has intensified in the most racially segregated schools.

- According to The Center For Diversity and Equality In Education, “the proportion of children attending either *apartheid* or *intensely segregated* schools [in NJ] has risen almost continuously since 1990”.
- And, in a modern-day secession movement, some majority white schools have begun to *break* from majority Black & brown schools (Maywood from Hackensack, Merchantville from Pennsauken & Absecon from Pleasantville)...



SAY NO TO SECESSION



**But there are more reasons for us to act
NOW.**

1. There is a lawsuit that will almost certainly rule against the state.

You do not want the courts to impose a remedy. It's not their job *and they will get it wrong.*

2. The Pandemic has Exposed & Exacerbated segregations' Impact:

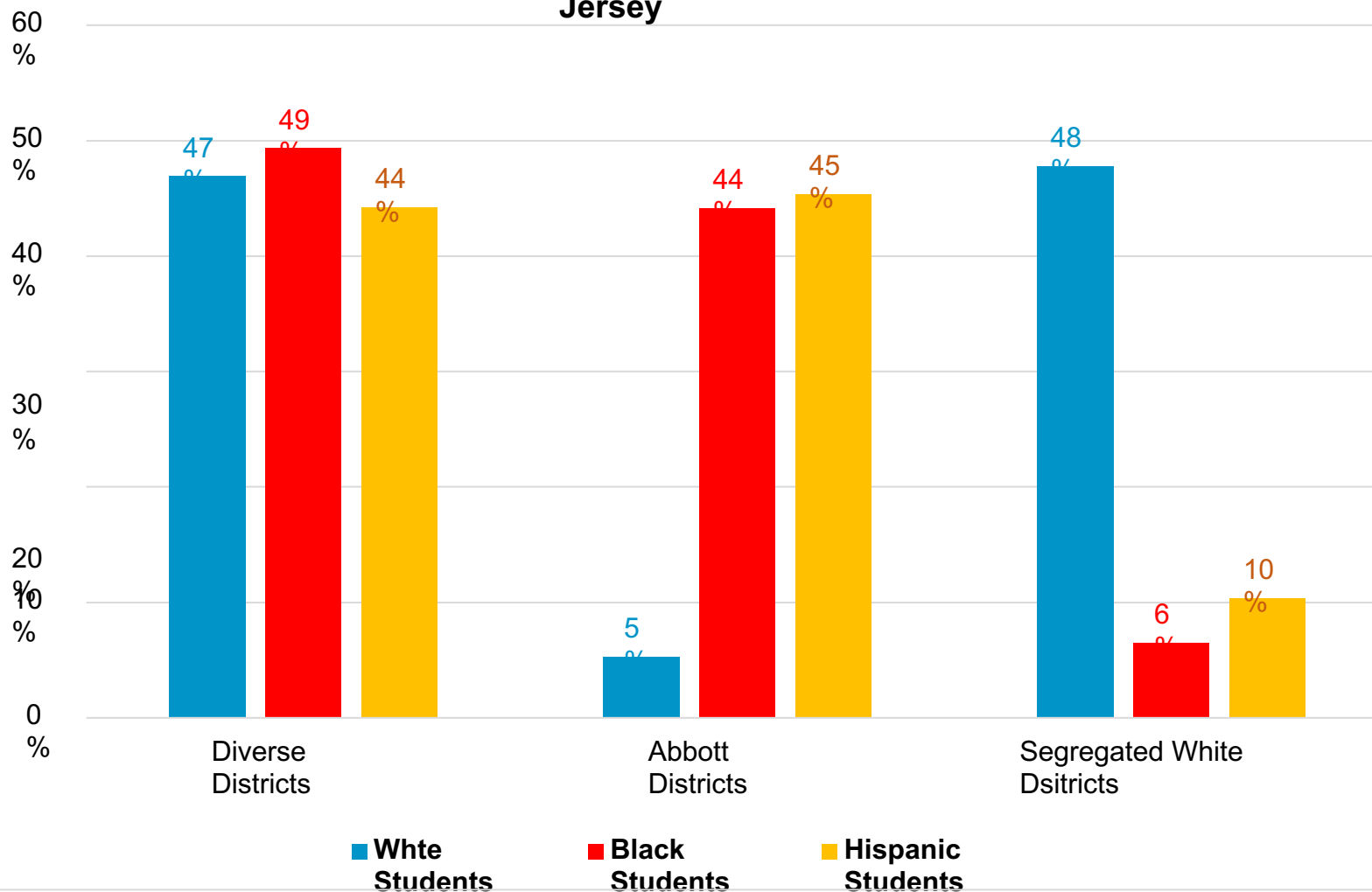
We face a catastrophe of post-pandemic learning loss. Early data shows far *too many children falling further and further behind.*

3. The political opportunity is *now*.

- *Intense* segregation by race & poverty is getting worse, but diversity is spreading in many suburbs.
- Diverse middle-class districts *have a self-interest* in combating segregation.
- We have an opportunity to build broad-based, multi-racial, support for a meaningful legislative approach.

Today, nearly half of all public school students, of all colors, attend diverse districts.

% Share of Total White, Black and Hispanic Students within Types in New Jersey

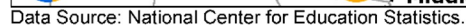


Some of North Jersey's Largest Diverse Districts



- Union
- Hillside
- Linden
- Mount Olive
- Morris
- Roxbury
- Dover
- West Orange
- Bloomfield
- Nutley
- Belleville
- Bayonne
- North Bergen
- Kearny

- Clifton
- Hackensack
- Teaneck
- Englewood
- Fair Lawn
- Bergenfield
- Lodi
- North Plainfield
- South Orange-Maplewood
- Rahway
- Montclair
- Cliffside Park



Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *School integration must involve everyone. It must be statewide & involve entire regions if it is to shut off doors to “flight”.*

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *It must aim to incentivize & push all districts, schools, classrooms, and even faculty and curriculum to better reflect the diversity of their regions & the state.*

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

- *and be based on a thorough analysis of racial as well as economic factors including a district's demographics and property tax capacity.*

It's not just about race, its about opportunity

The specific legislative tools
include the following:

Amend and Pass Senate Bill 820

Establishes the office of desegregation

- Reform & strengthen the DOE's civil rights capacity so it can develop a desegregation plan & has the power, funds, mandate, and expertise to enforce it.
- We can start by amending & passing S820 sponsored by Senator Joe Cryan and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey.

- The bill must include a mandate, a mission, a budget, expertise as well as:
 - accountability *and community engagement*
 - so that the people have a seat at the table.
- A task force or commission so our leaders and experts can help shape and oversee it.

Amend the School Consolidation Bill

- **We must end *illegal racist secessions*.**
 - Ban the terminating of any more regional send-receive arrangements or the dissolution of unified districts.
 - Amend the new *School Consolidation Bill* to ban secessions while requiring an *affirmative* obligation to promote integration.

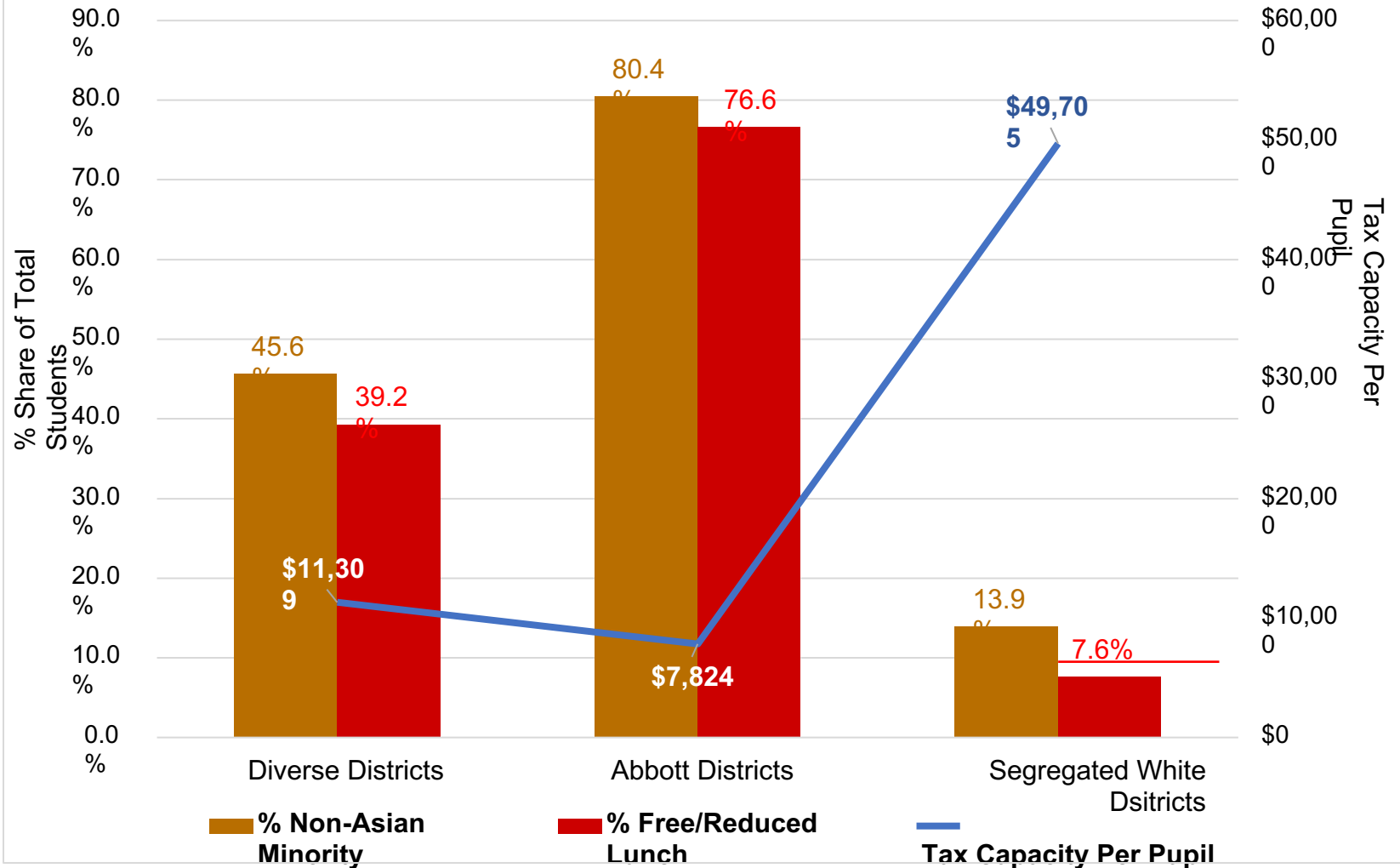
Amend Senate Bill 354

Establishes a School Funding Evaluation Task Force

- Criteria for school aid should incentivize inclusive schools in cities as well as diverse, middle-class suburbs.
- Reward inclusion best practices. *Stop rewarding exclusion.*
- *School Funding Evaluation Task Force must make racial justice and civil rights a goal of funding & include the appointment of pro-inclusion stakeholders.*
 - *Give us a seat at the table*
 - *so we can give inclusion and justice a prominent place at that table.*

- New Jersey's over-reliance on local property taxes rewards *exclusion* more than inclusion

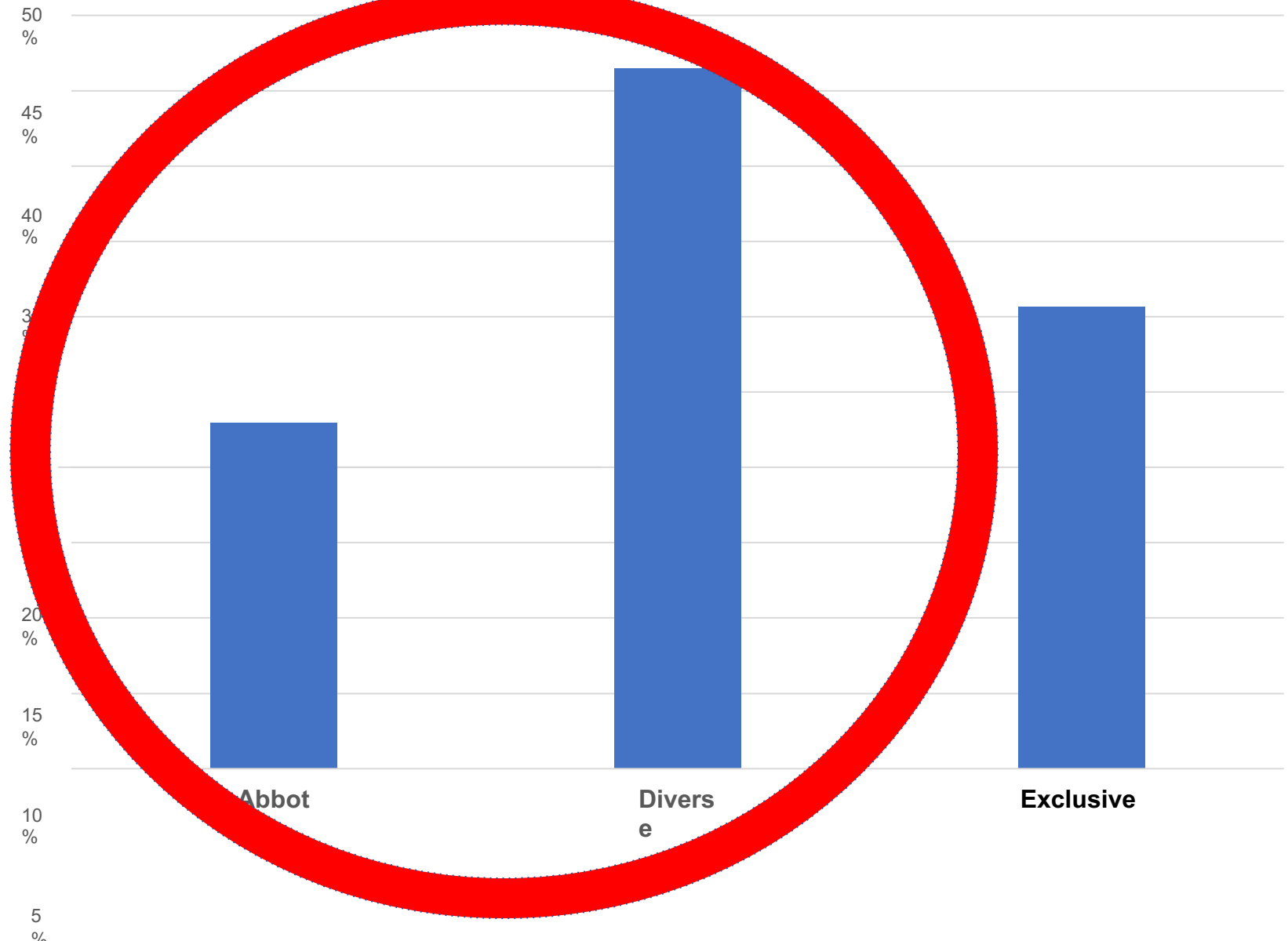
Race, Poverty and Tax Capacity of Types in New Jersey



- These reforms can be done because they are right and moral...

...and because urban and diverse suburban districts are a *70%* winning coalition.

New Jersey Public School Student



- Its time to align our values with our actions and advance this agenda in the New Jersey Legislature
- Next steps are the proposed amendments introduced into the Senate and Assembly Education Committees

Two bills have been introduced in the Senate Education Committee earlier this year but have yet to be heard in the Assembly. Both need amendments as outlined by Rev. Francois.

- One establishes the ***Office of Desegregation*** sponsored by Senators Cryan and Assemblywoman Jasey
- The other establishes a ***School Funding Evaluation Task*** Force introduced and sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal the Chair of the Education Committee.

March on Washington Anniversary



Legislative Policy Forum

**Thursday, August 25, 2022
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
St. Paul Baptist Church
Montclair, NJ**



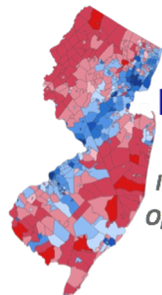
ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

SERVICE • WORSHIP • FELLOWSHIP • GROWTH • EVANGELISM

**Building
One
America**

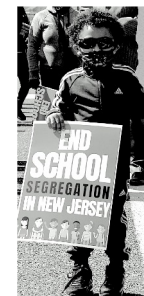


Organizing for Inclusion, Sustainability, and Opportunity



**Building One
New Jersey**

*Inclusion, Sustainability
Opportunity*



NJ-CARE

**The New Jersey
Coalition
Against
Racial
Exclusion**