New Jersey Public Schools Racially Diverse Districts





Organizing for Inclusion, Sustainability, and Opportunity



INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN

- The Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ-CARE) a part of Building One America (BOA), has studied this issue and built support while receiving input throughout NJ (and the U.S.) from experts, practitioners, and constituency leaders.
- The following summarizes specific recommendations for legislative action.
- The motivation and opportunities <u>to do this *now*</u> are threefold:

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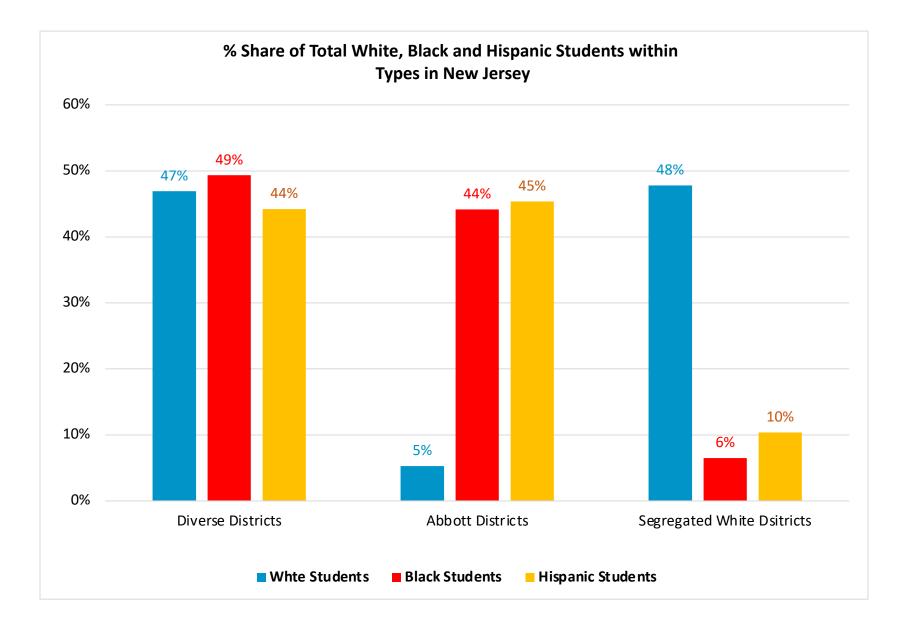
• **One:** You do not want the courts to impose a remedy. It's not their job and they will get it wrong.

The motivation and opportunities <u>to</u> <u>do this *now*</u> are threefold:

• **Two:** We are facing a catastrophe of post-pandemic learning loss. Early data shows what should be no surprise. Too many children in segregated schools are falling further behind than ever before.

The motivation and opportunities <u>to</u> <u>do this *now*</u> are threefold:

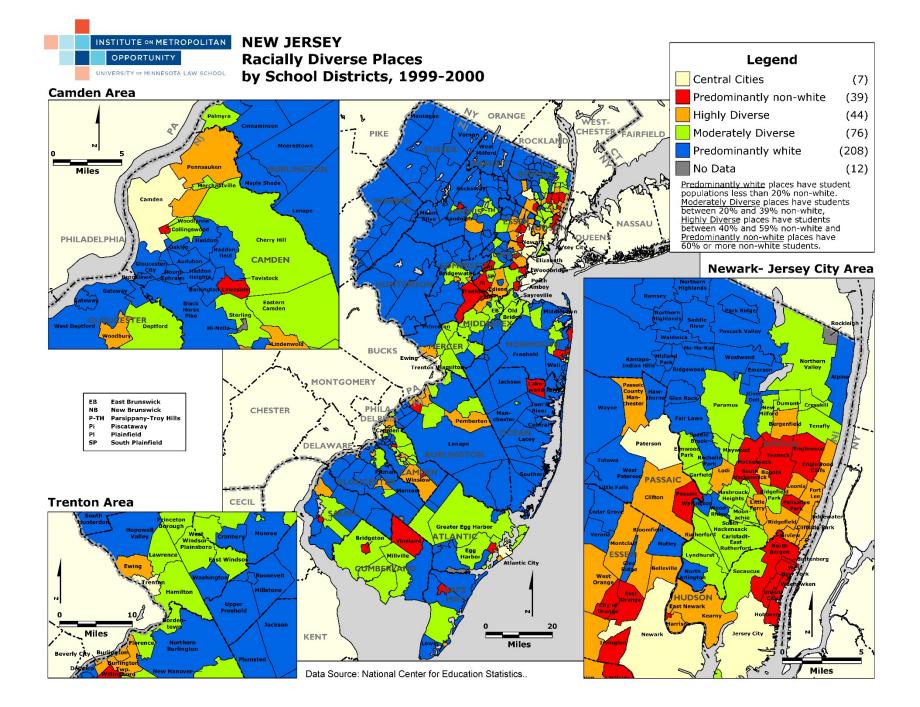
• Three: The political opportunity is *now*. While *intense* segregation by race and class is getting worse, diversity has been spreading throughout the suburbs. New Jersey's diverse middle-class suburbs *have a self-interest* in combating segregation and therein lies the opportunity for <u>broad-based</u>, <u>multi-racial</u>, and even bipartisan support for a meaningful and lasting legislative approach.

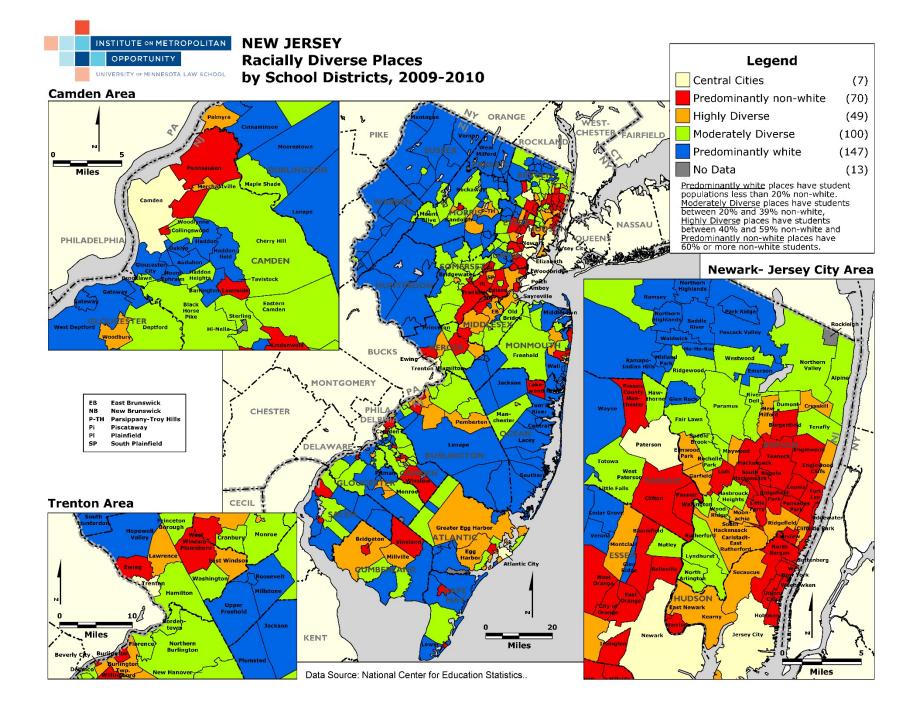


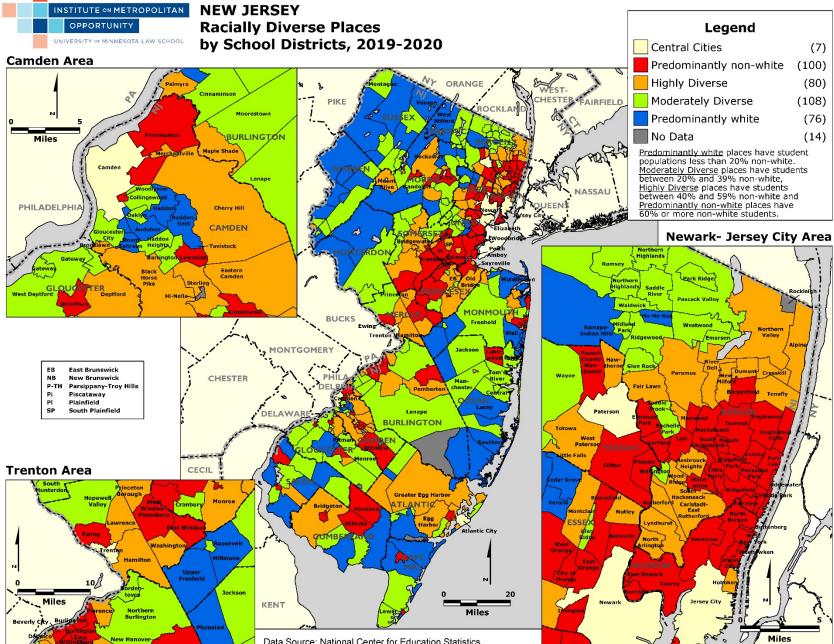
Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

• A school integration plan must involve <u>everyone</u>. It must be statewide & involve entire regions [1] if it is to shut off doors to "flight".

[1] *Regions* are defined as geographical areas large enough to capture both the highest & lowest opportunity type districts within a Metropolitan Statistical Area. <u>Not</u> counties. COAH districts and MSAs can be considered in defining regions.



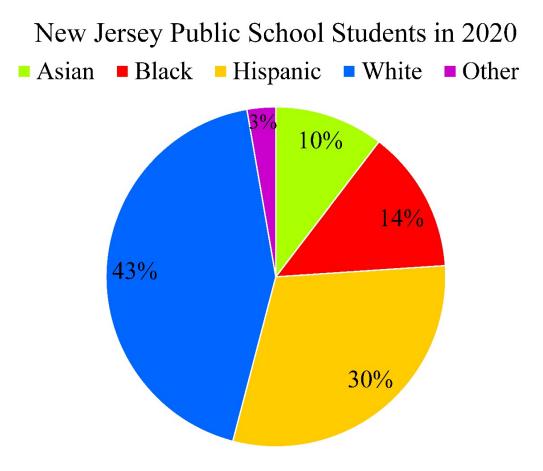


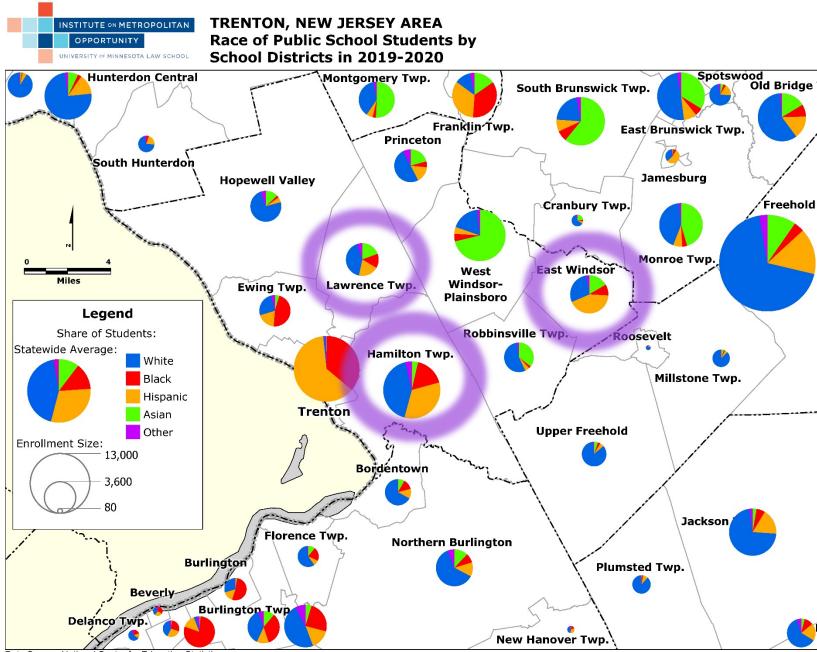


Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics..

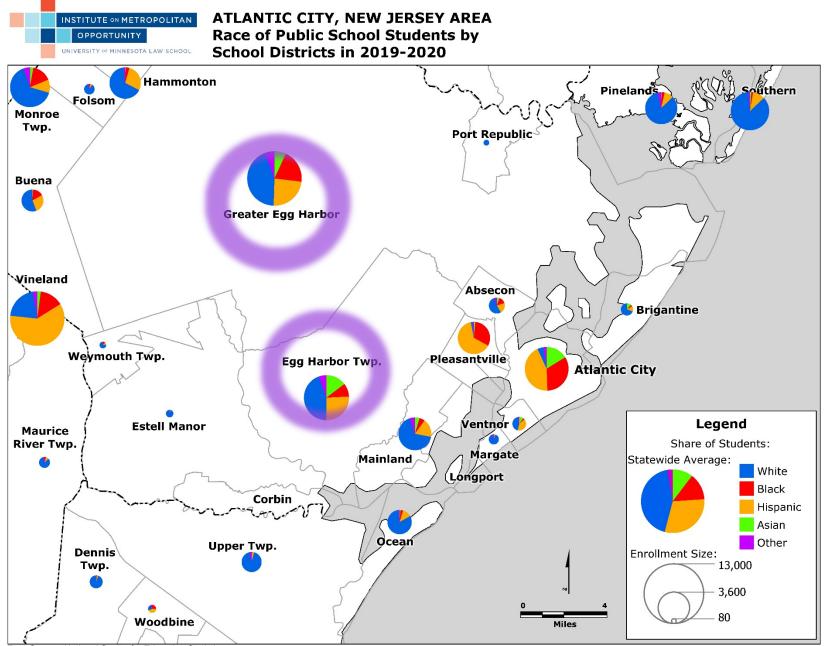
Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

• The aim must be to incentivize & push all districts, schools, classrooms, and even faculty to <u>better</u> <u>reflect the diversity of their regions & the state</u>.





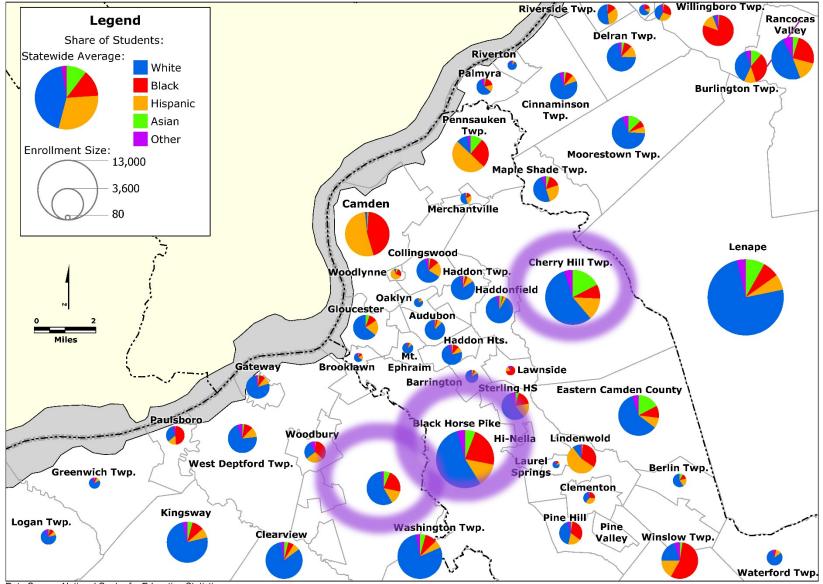
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INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY AREA Race of Public School Students by School Districts in 2019-2020



Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

NEWARK- NORTH NEW JERSEY AREA INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN **Race of Public School Students by** OPPORTUNITY School Districts in 2019-2020 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL West Essex Montclair Glen Nutley Ridge Morris Plains Verona Bloomyndhurst Hanover Park field Twp. Twp. Randolph Twp Livingston Twp. Morris Twp. Belleville North Arlington West Orange West Morris East Orange Harrison Madison Orange Kearny Ertin City Twp. Millburn Twp. Irvington Twp. Harding Twp. South Orange-Summit Maplewood Somerset Hills Union Twp. The Chathams Springfield Twp. Newark Legend Hillside Twp. Share of Students: Kenilworth New Providence Statewide Average: **Roselle Park** Mountainside White Cranford Twp. Black Roselle Westfield Berkeley Watchung Hills Hispanic Hts Twp. / Asian Elizabeth Garwood Linden Other Scotch Winfield Twp. Enrollment Size: Plains-13,000 Fanwood North Plainfield Plainfield Rahway 3,600 Clark Twp. Green Miles Brook 80 Twp. Carteret Woodbridge Twp. South Plainfield Bridgewater-Raritan Bound Brook Dunellen Piscataway Somerville Twp. Middlesex Edison Twp.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Principles for ending school segregation in New Jersey

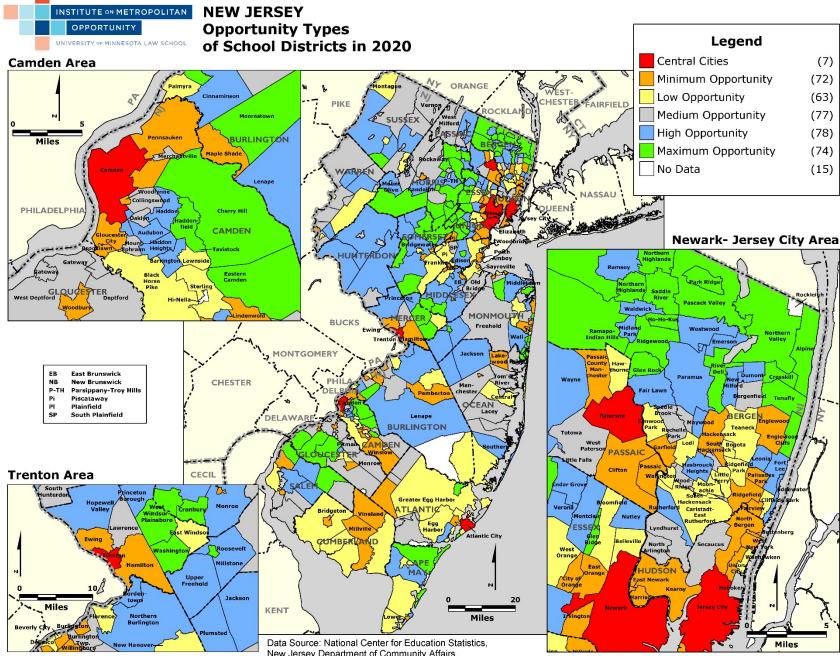
 A desegregation plan must be based on a thorough analysis of racial as well as economic factors including a district's property tax capacity.

It's not just about race, its about opportunity

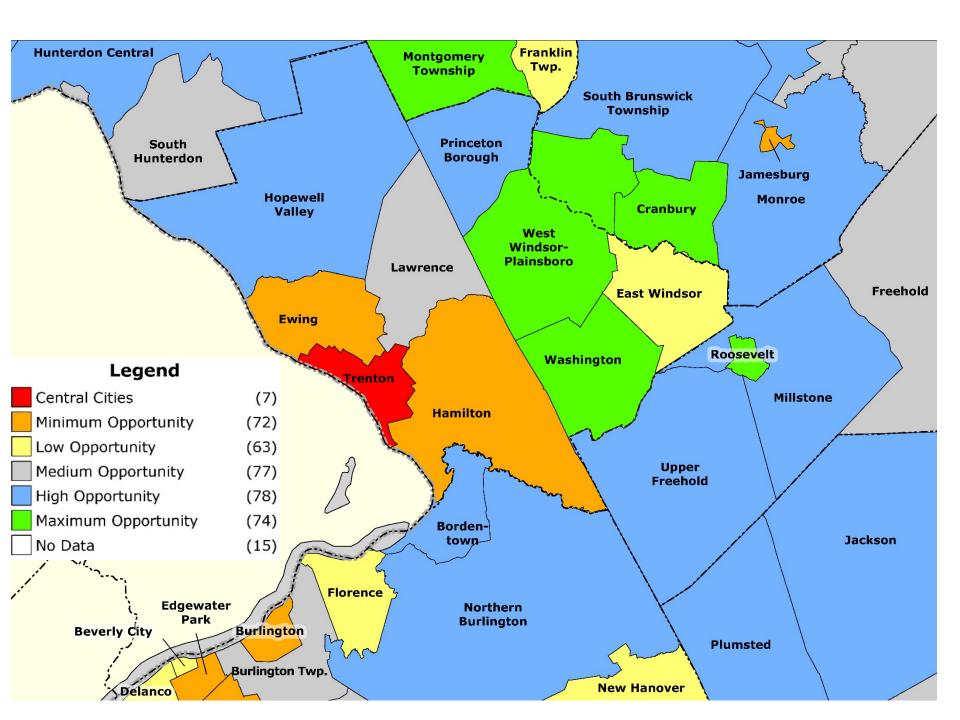
Next map measures *opportunity* by school district using multiple opportunity factors including:

- % of Free & Reduced School Lunch
- % proficient in Math & Reading
- Per Pupil-Property Tax Capacity

Green & Blue areas are the highest opportunity districts with very few lowincome students, best scores & highest ratable base.



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.



The specific legislative tools include the following:

The specific legislative tools include the following: *Amend S820*

 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 <u>amending & passing S820</u> <u>sponsored by Senator Joe Cryan.</u>

- The bill must <u>include a spelled-out mandate</u> as described in line 1 and 2 of this document (next slide)
- The bill must include a budget but <u>only for the specified</u> <u>purposes</u> outlined in line 1 and 2 of this document. This should include <u>contracting with qualified expert/s</u> in school desegregation.
- The director of the division should be a new hire and a person with appropriate qualifications with expertise and/or experience in desegregation.
- The bill must be clear that the division and its director's authority and responsibility include the independent review and evaluation of all described in line 4 including: consolidations, withdrawals, charters, and magnet schools.

- 1. A <u>legislative mandate</u> to bring the State of New Jersey into compliance with its own constitutional requirement of guaranteeing a *thorough and efficient* education for all students <u>free of racial segregation</u>.
- 2. The Department of Education must be required to conduct, and adequate resources must be allocated for, an analysis of *all* New Jersey school districts-including demographics and fiscal capacity <u>across school district boundaries</u> within metropolitan regions and across the state (not just within school districts). It must be provided with and authorized to obtain the tools and expertise needed to carry out a desegregation plan that includes integration goals for each district (and each school) based on their relative compliance with school integration.
- 3. A position and division created to lead the desegregation of New Jersey's schools (such as a Division and Director of Desegregation) must be an adequality funded, dedicated, and a specialized role with <u>independence and statutory authority</u> to carry out a school desegregation mandate.
- 4. The strategies available to such a Division and Director of School Desegregation must include all tools, policies and programs that can incentivize and promote established integration goals set for each school district. The division must be required to ensure that all programs and decisions of the Department of Education advance the goals and are in full accord with the principles and goals of desegregation-including charter schools, magnet schools, any changes to sendreceive relationships the use of the Interdistrict Sharing program.

The specific legislative tools include the following: *Amend S3488*

 <u>End secessions</u>. Ban the terminating of any more regional send-receive arrangements or the dissolution of unified districts. <u>Amend the new</u> <u>School Consolidation Bill</u> to <u>prohibit secessions</u> while requiring an *affirmative* obligation to promote integration.

- 1. It must not permit "withdrawals" or "separations" as a step toward regionalization.
- A withdrawal or separation is *not* consolidation but *deregionalization!* It is the exact opposite of the spirit and purpose of the bill.
- Allowing withdrawals, as a step toward consolidation, will only lead to more racial segregation, isolations and the abandonment of poor children.

The bill must strike "withdrawals" and "separations" and make feasibility studies that include withdrawals and dissolutions ineligible for grants.

Include a provision that makes clear that no grant under the statute can be used for a feasibility study to investigate and/or support terminating any sending receiving relationship under 18A:38-13.

2. It must require an *affirmative* obligation to advance inclusion, diversity and integration within the school district being consolidated.

- Just as the bill has affirmative goals for efficacy and cost savings it must also include an obligation to achieve racial and socioeconomic integration within the consolidated district (as defined by the demographics of the region).
- The bill must make goals, projections and plans for socioeconomic inclusion based on regional demographics a requirement for grant eligibility.

3. It must require an affirmative obligation to advance inclusion, diversity and integration in the larger region:

 Applicants must be required to demonstrate how proposed consolidations will have an impact on the de-concentration of poverty and a reduction of racial segregation within the region as defined by the county, Metropolitan Statista Area and among contiguous surrounding school districts.

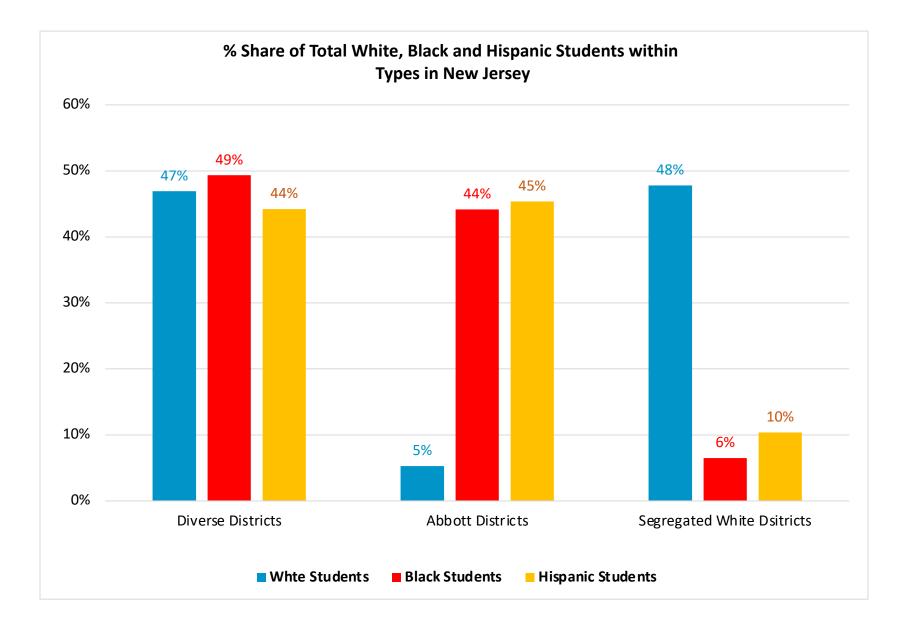
Simply avoiding segregation is not enough. The state is too diverse and too fragmented for inclusion goals not be included. Districts that consider consolidating without being required to include inclusion will be compelled to segregate by race and or class.

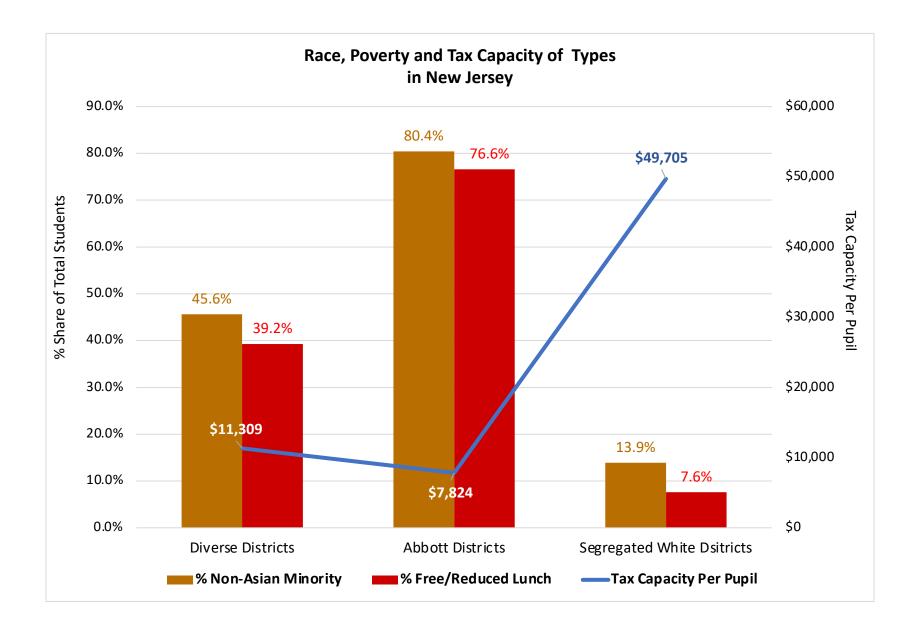
The specific legislative tools include the following: Amend Senate Bill 354

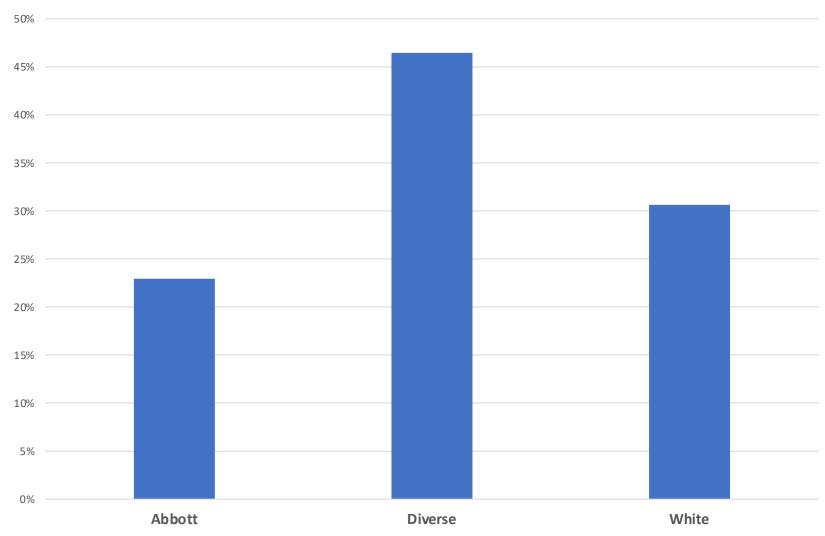
- Expand & strengthen the state school funding formula to reward & incentivize diverse & integrated schools in cities as well as our many diverse, middle-class suburbs.
- Direct & increase school aid to support & incentivize local integration & desegregation <u>best practices</u> where diversity already exists, especially in our many diverse suburbs.

Places like South Orange/Maplewood, Woodbridge, Hamilton, and Galloway already reflect the diversity of their region and the state. These places need carrots, <u>not sticks</u>, to become beacons of diversity and supporters of integration.

• Senate Bill 354 which establishes School Funding Formula Evaluation Task Force should be amended to make integration a goal of school funding and to include the appointment of integration stakeholder







New Jersey Public School Student Population

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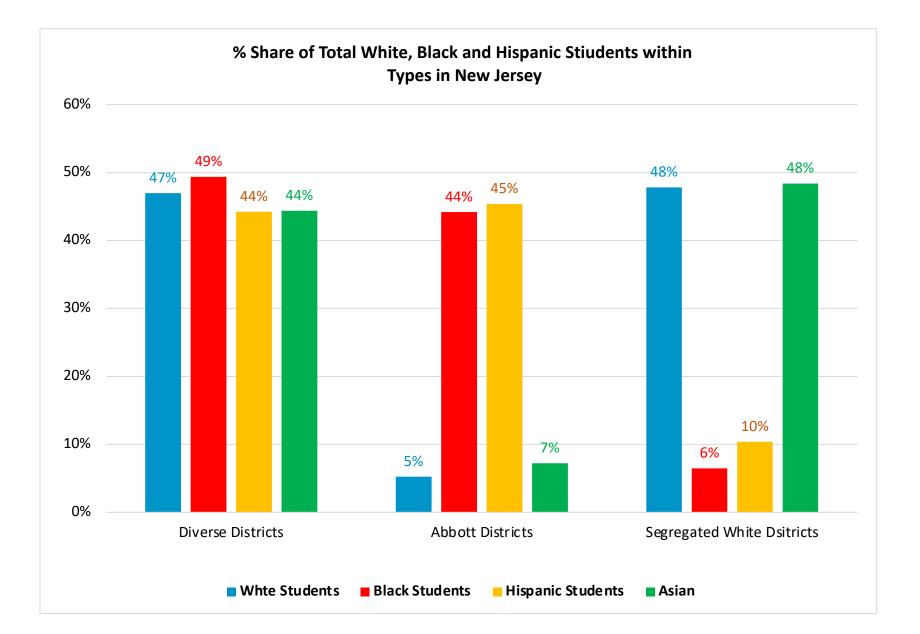
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NJ Diverse School Districts Over 3000 Enrolment 2020



The specific legislative tools include the following: Amend Interdistrict Choice Act

- <u>Reform the Interdistrict Public School Choice</u> <u>program</u> to be a *mandatory* tool to help the nondiverse districts achieve their integration goals.
 - District goals are based on regional diversity and opportunity analysis.
 - Establishing district goals must be a part of the mandate and capacity of the office of desegregation.

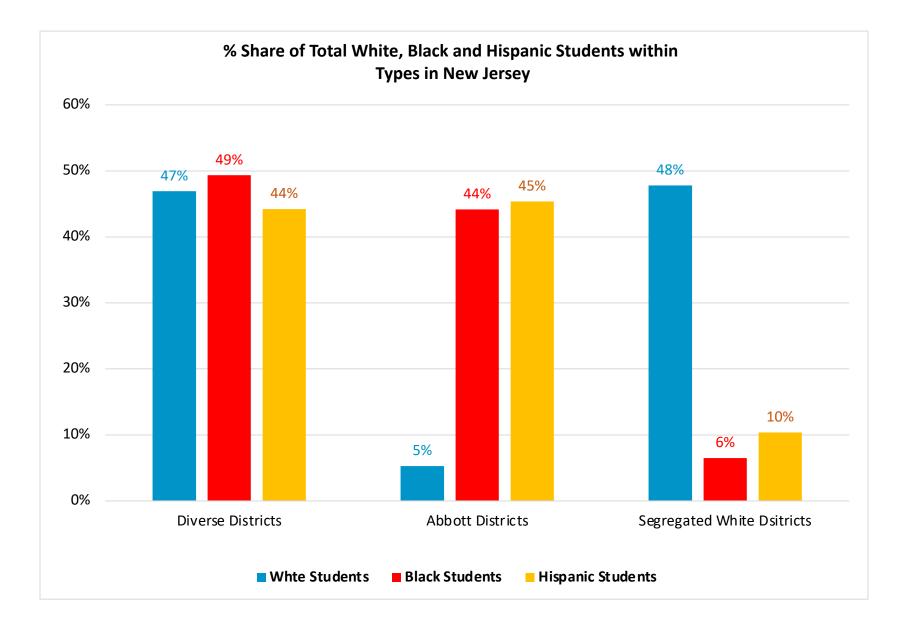
The specific legislative tools include the following: Amend Charter School Act

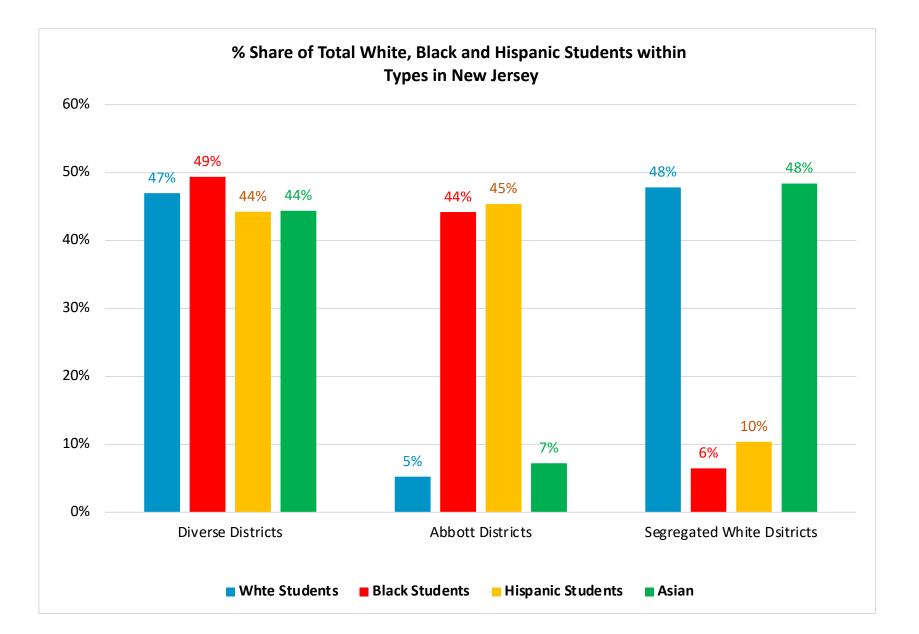
- Require <u>charter schools to be fully integrated</u> and to meet integration goals based on <u>regional</u> *demographics not their district or neighborhood*.
- Amend the Charter School Program Act of 1995 and NJ Administrative Code, Charter Schools to require charter schools to meet regional segregation goals based on regional economic and racial demographics.

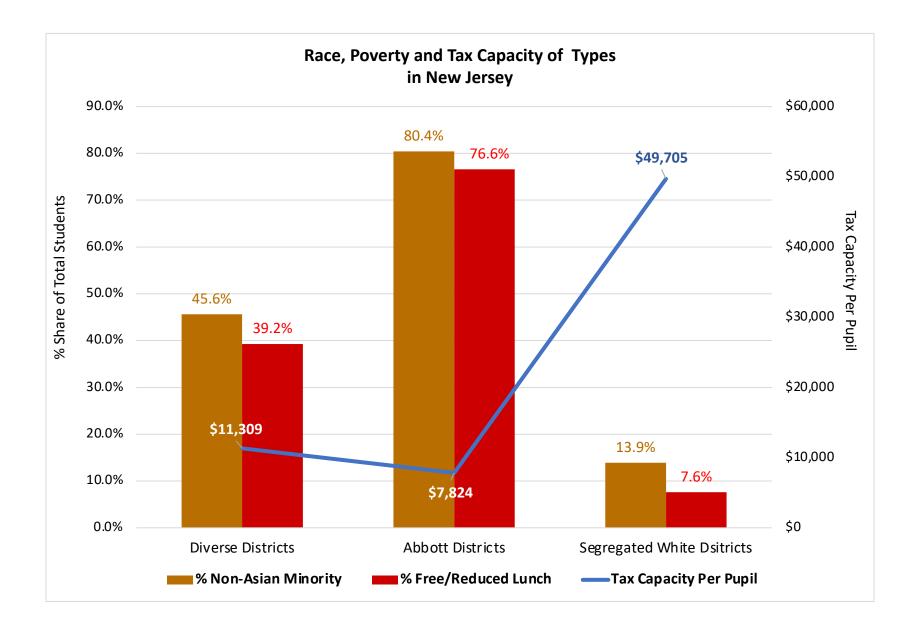
The specific legislative tools include the following: Amend County vocational school Act

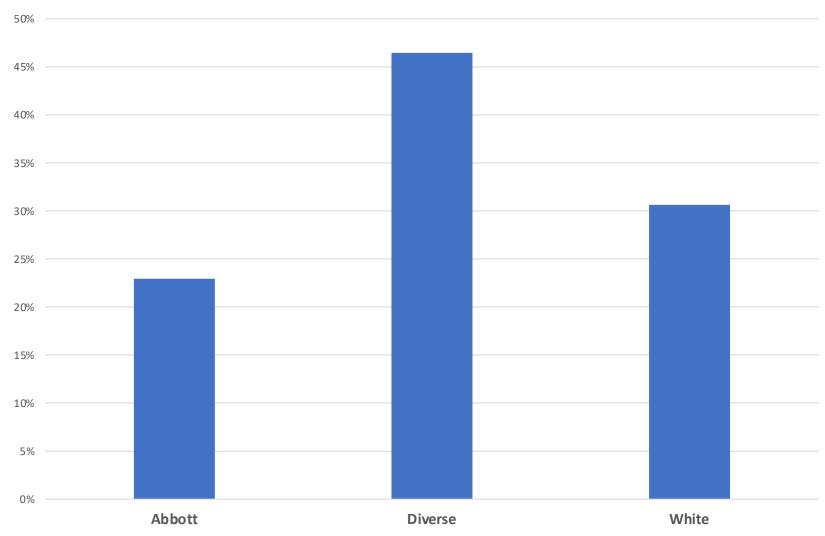
 Designate & support <u>pro-integration magnet</u> <u>schools</u> & <u>require county schools</u> to meet regional economic & racial integration goals. The specific legislative tools include the following: *Amend A1987*

- <u>We can strengthen the Fair Housing Act</u> to increase *Mount Laurel* obligations on "far flung" communities that maintain exclusionary schools.
- We can lesson affordable housing obligations for diverse districts that meet integration goals.
 - Assembly Bill A1987 can include school district demographics and diversity to determine reductions (or increase) in fair housing obligation









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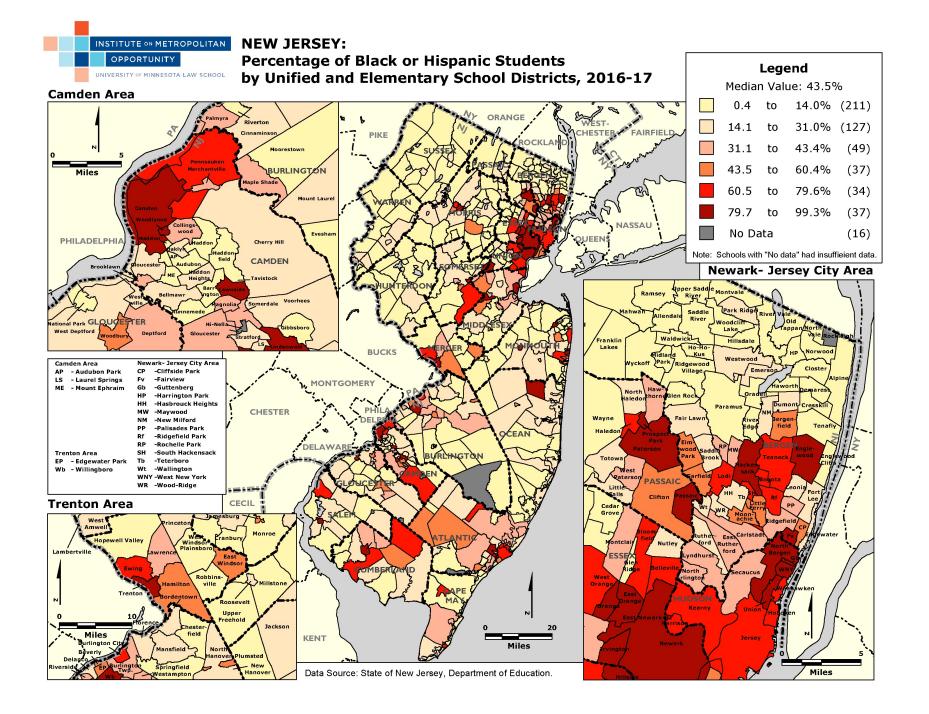
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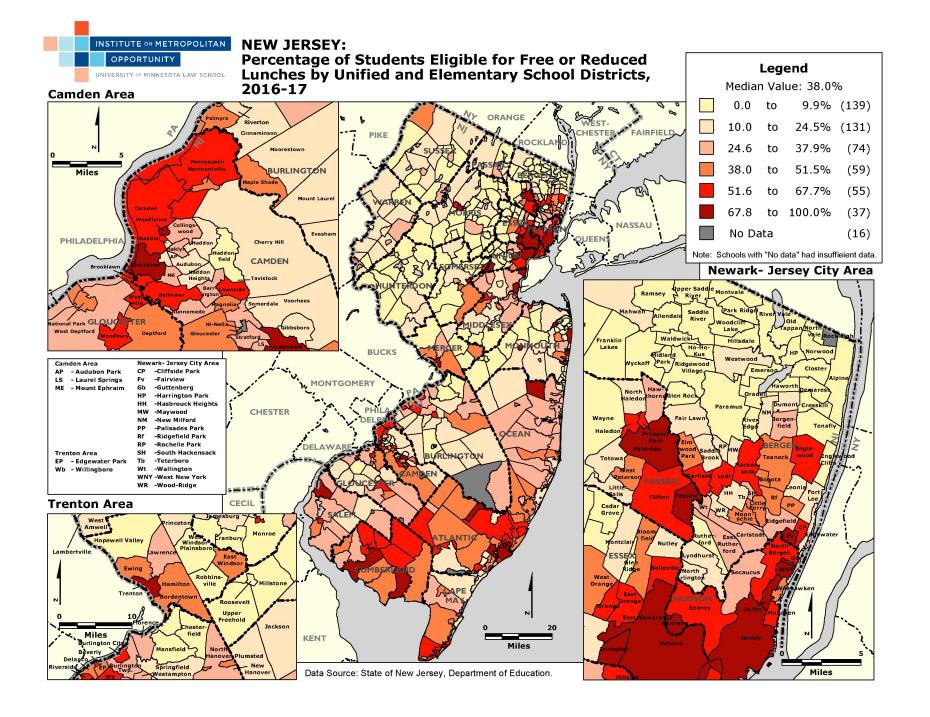
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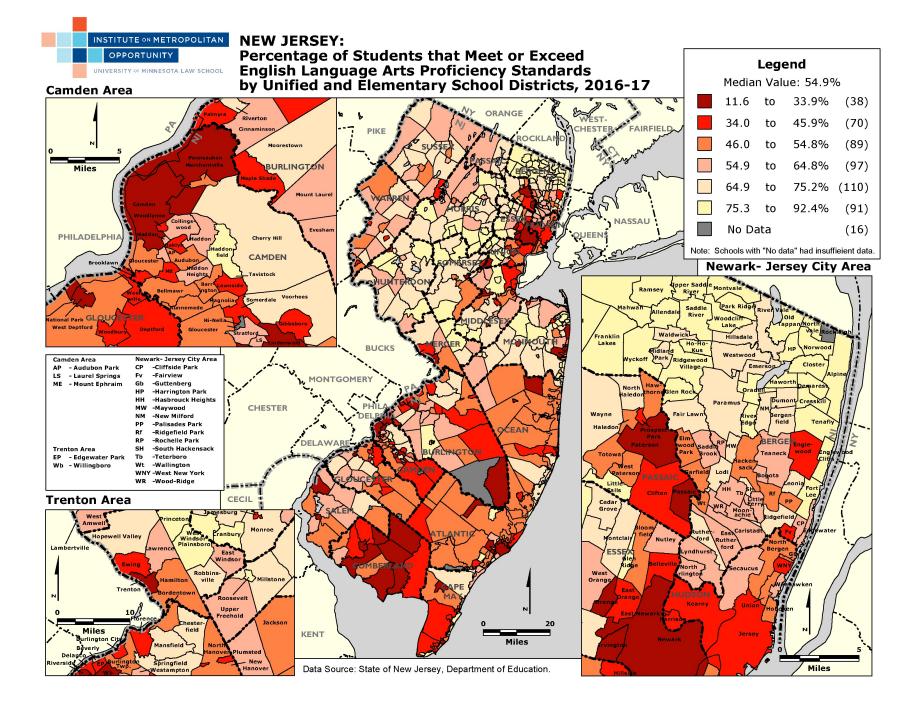
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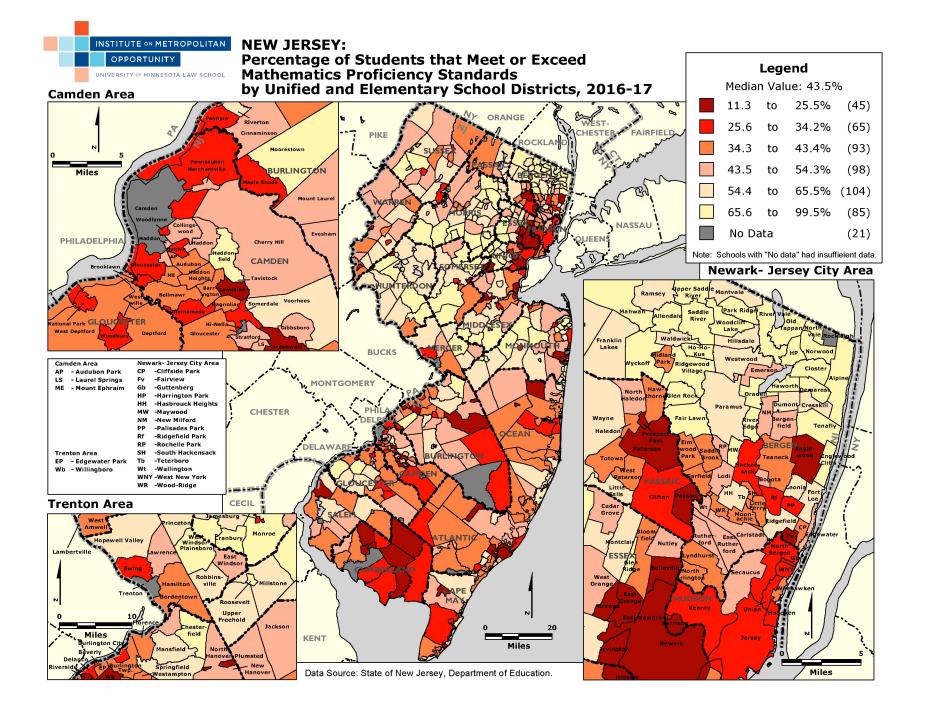
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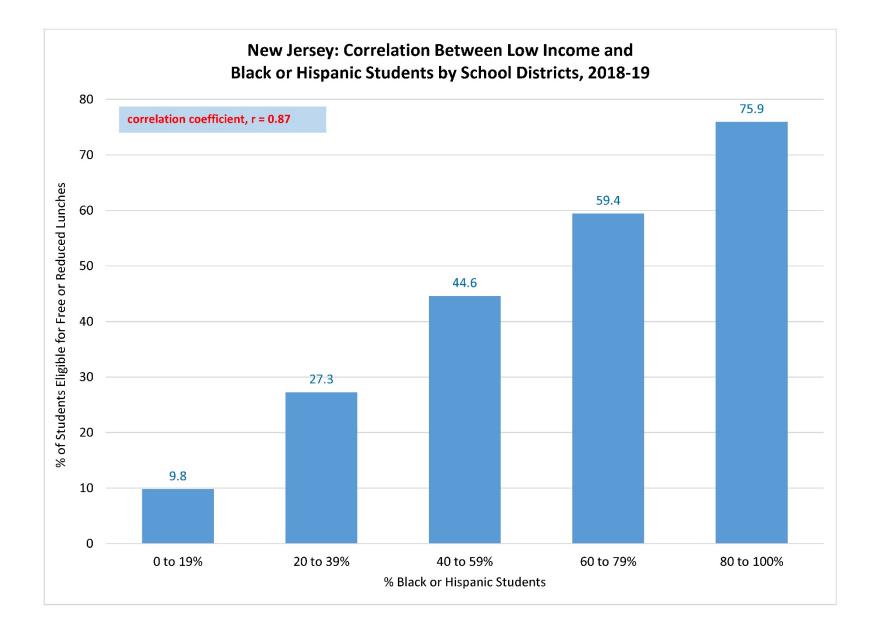
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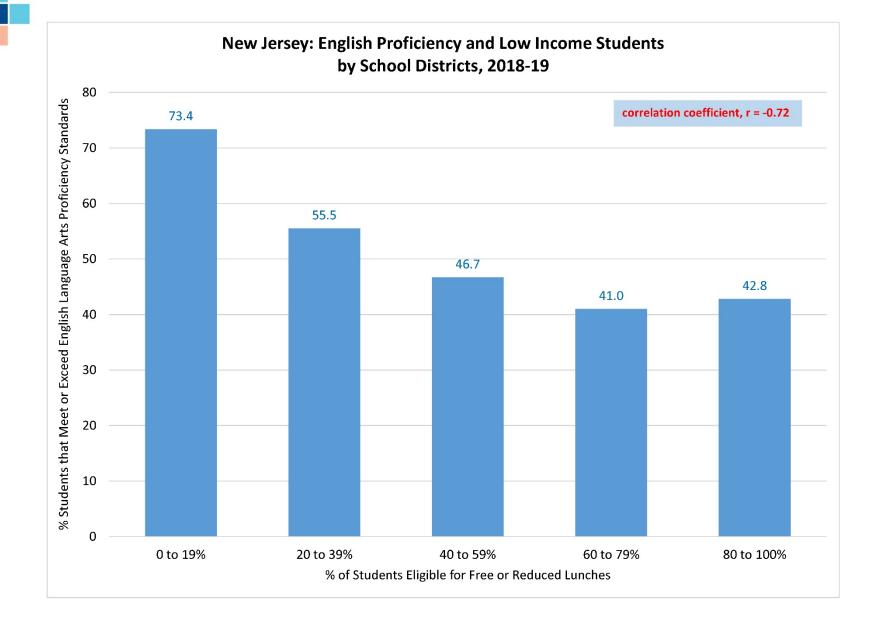


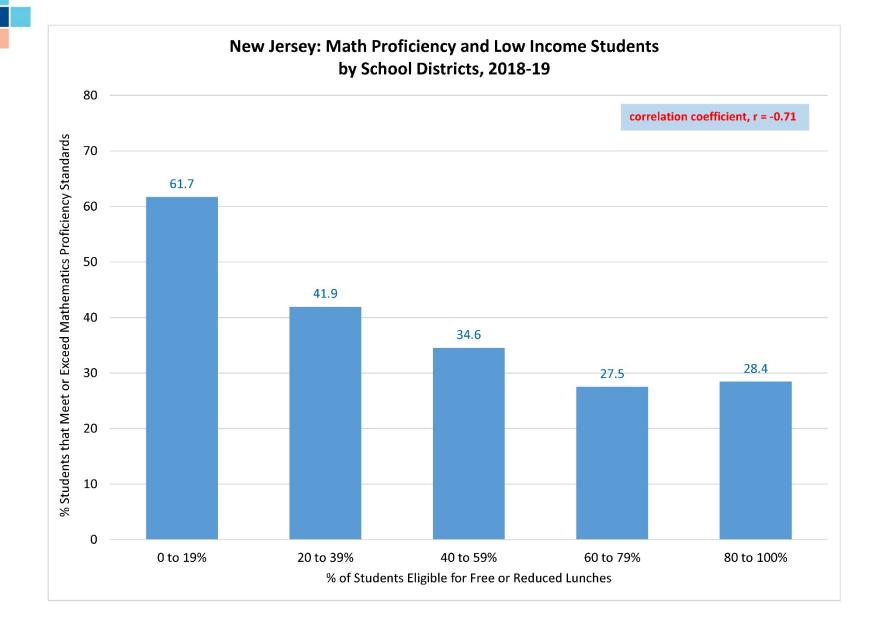


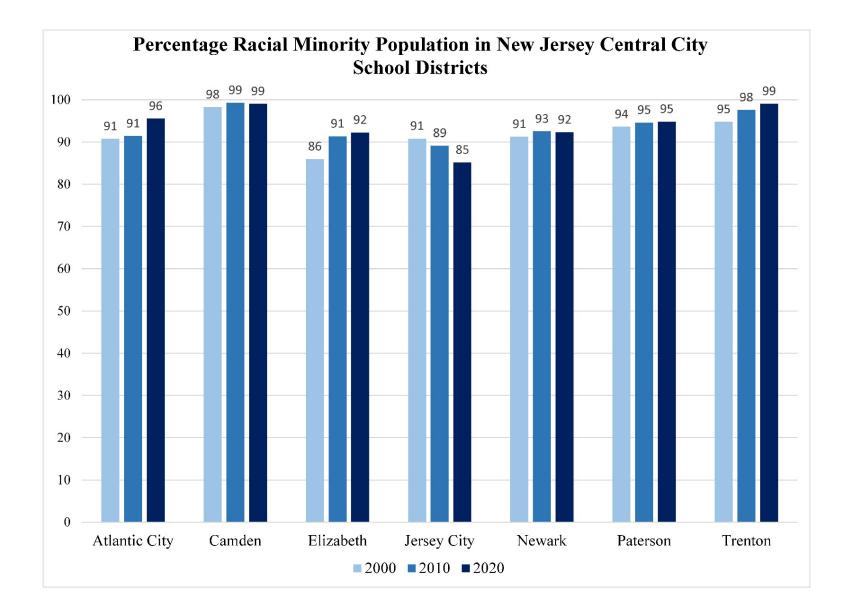


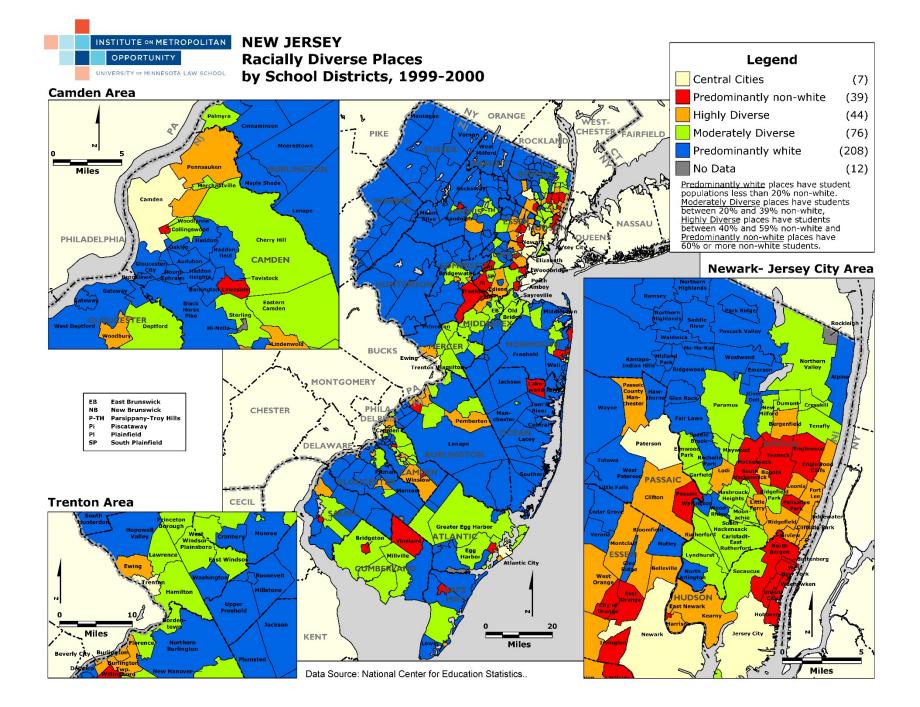


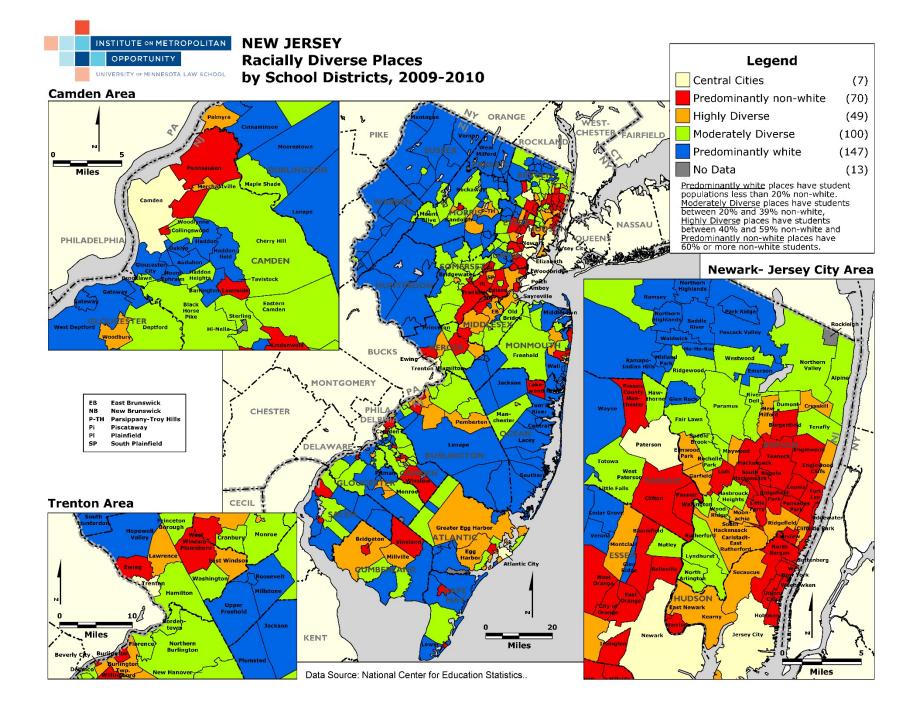


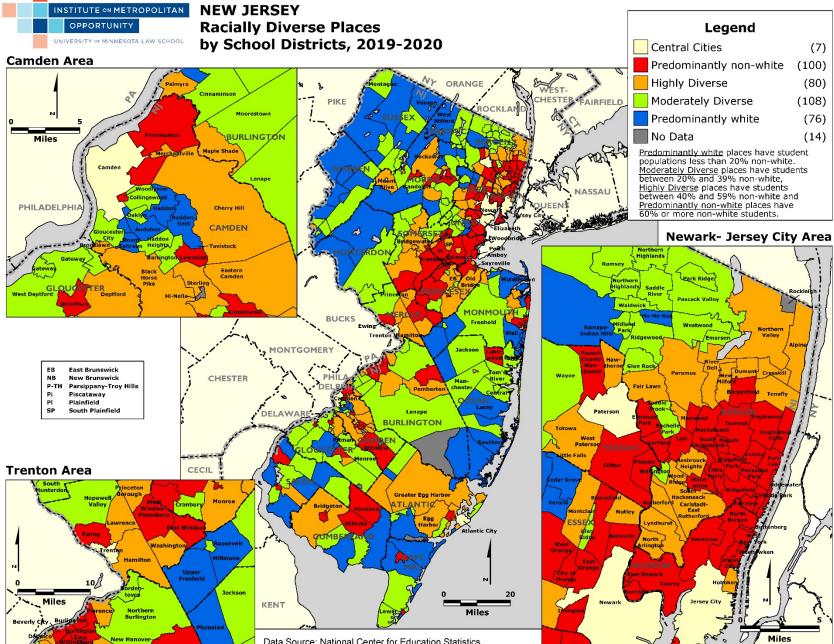




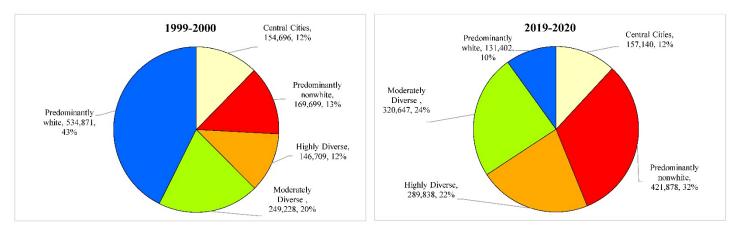






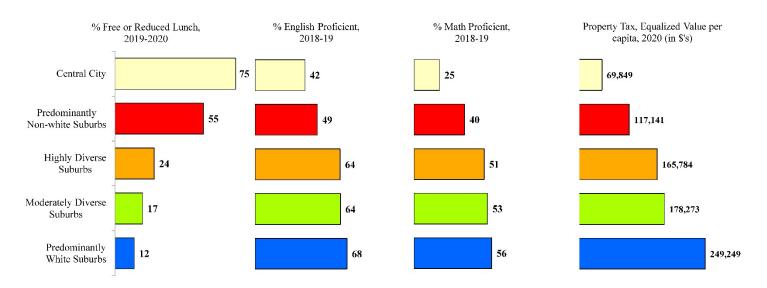


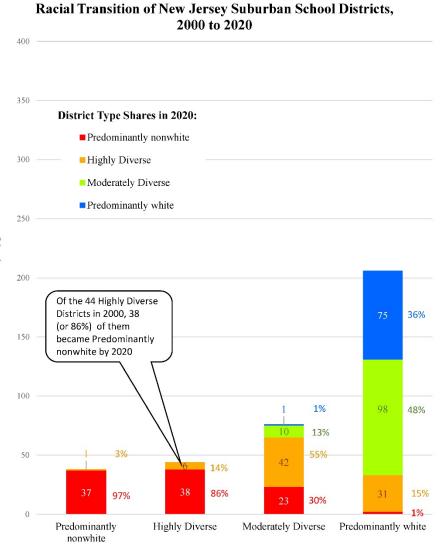
New Jersey

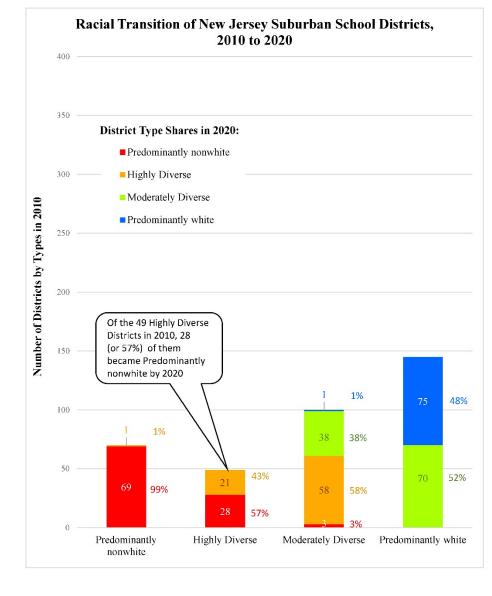


Distribution of public school students across school district types

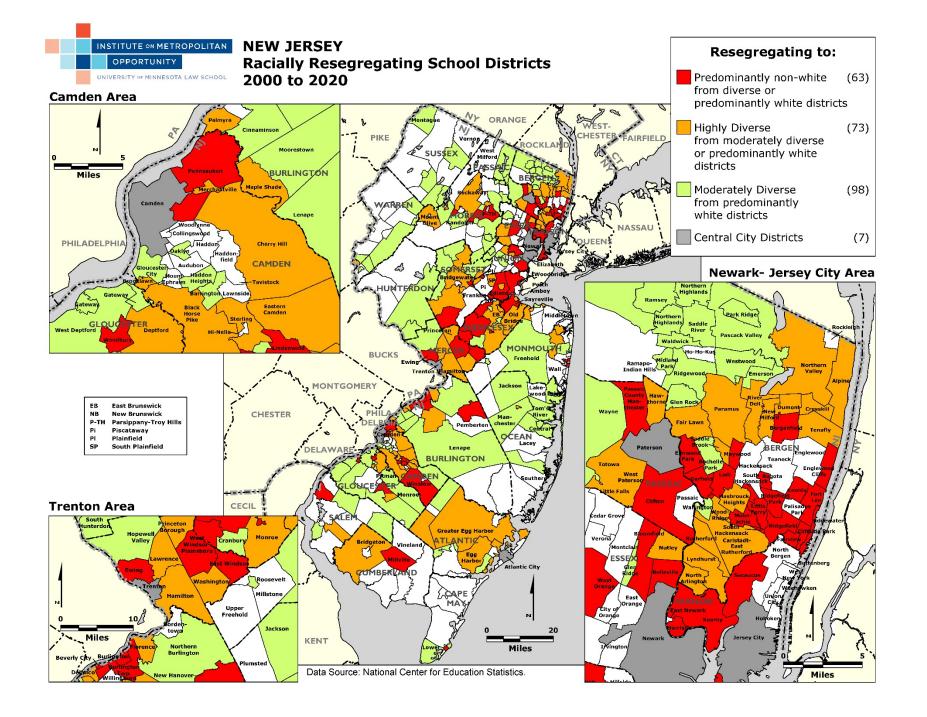
Characteristics of the school district types

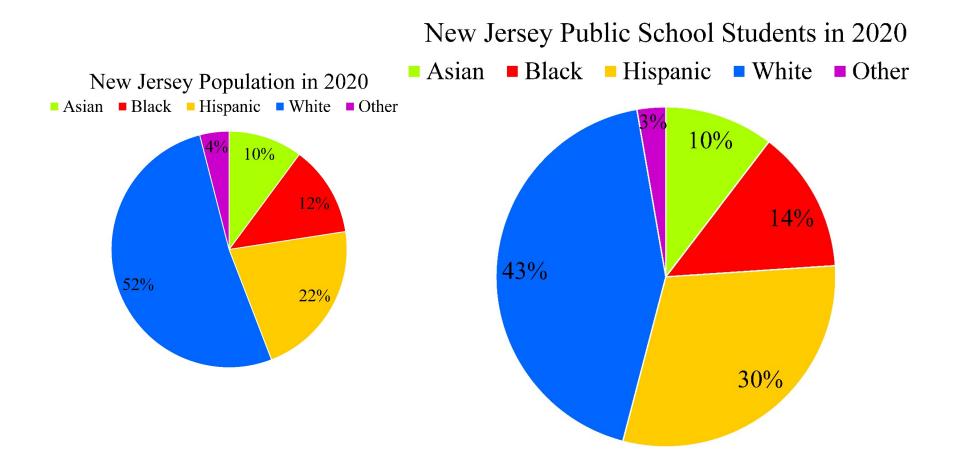


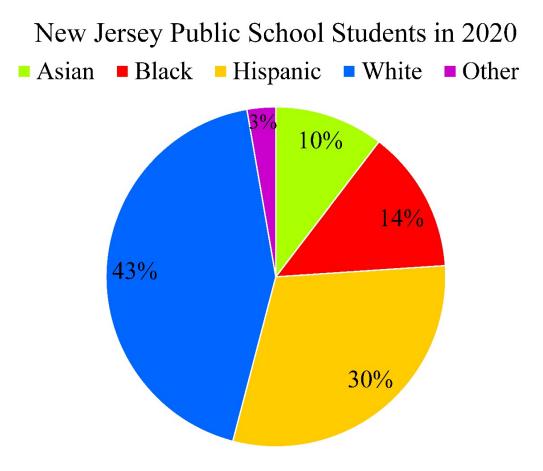


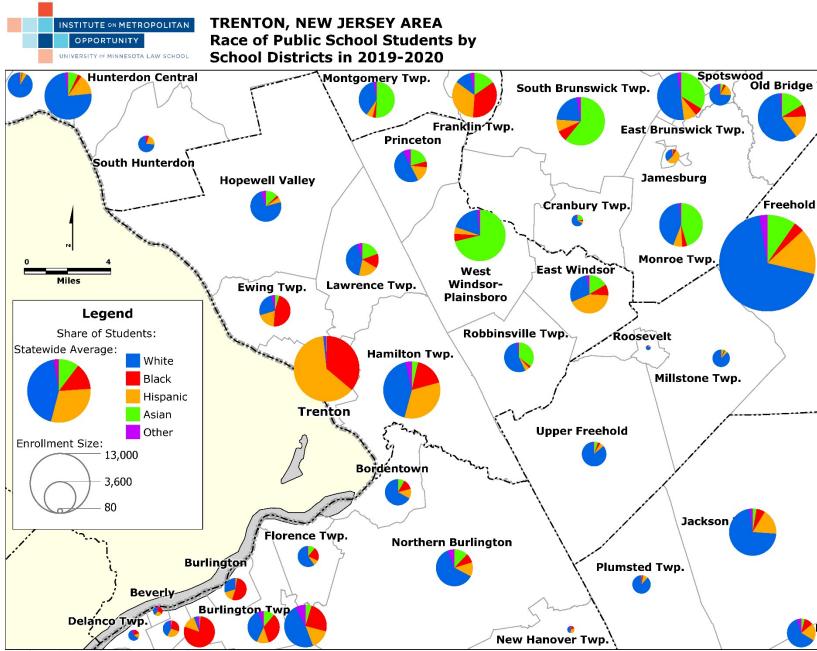


Number of Districts by Types in 2000

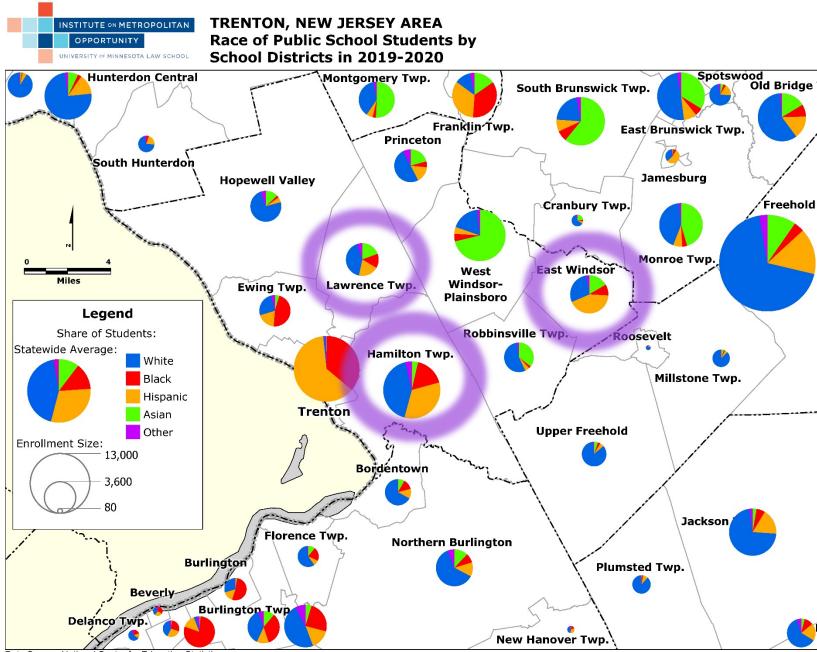




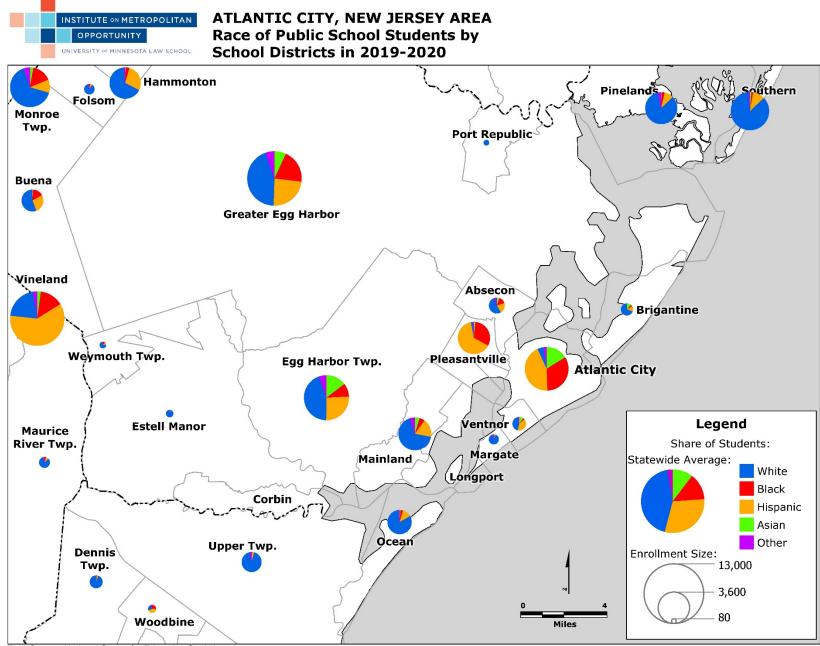


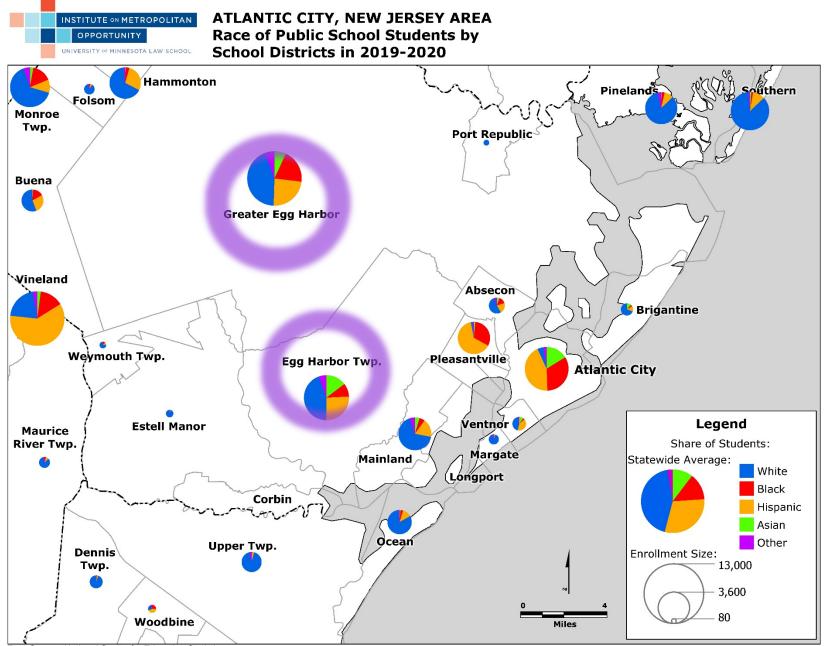


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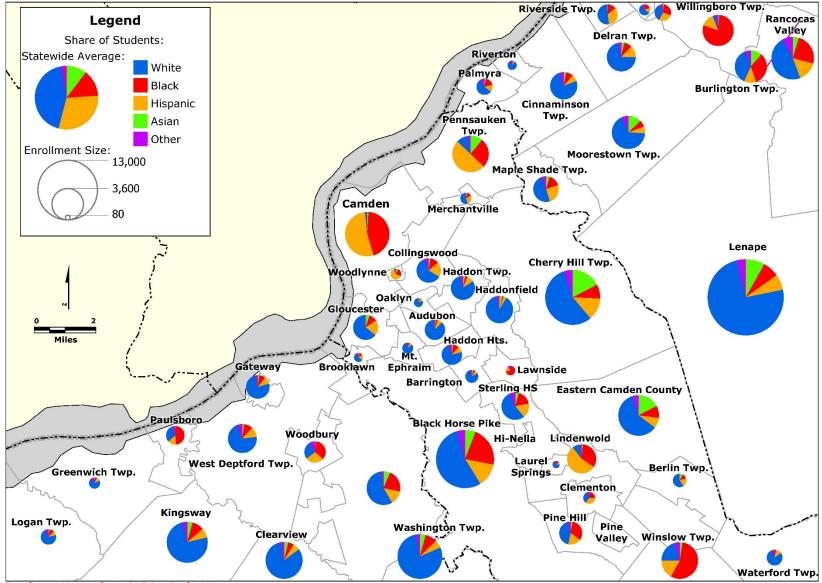
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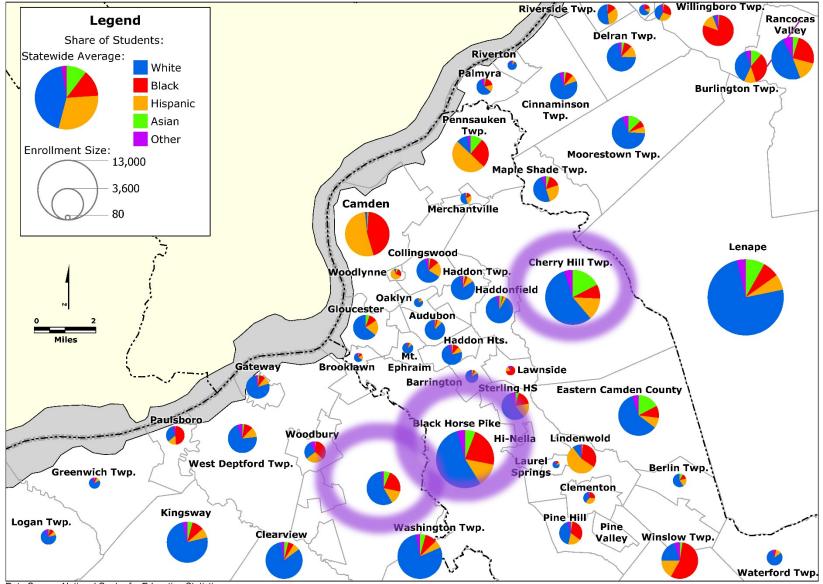
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INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN OPPORTUNITY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY AREA Race of Public School Students by School Districts in 2019-2020



NEWARK- NORTH NEW JERSEY AREA INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN **Race of Public School Students by** OPPORTUNITY School Districts in 2019-2020 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL West Essex Montclair Glen Nutley Ridge Bloom-**Morris Plains** Verona yndhurst Hanover Park field Twp. Twp. Randolph Twp Morris Twp. Livingston Twp. Belleville North Arlington West Orange West Morris East Orange Harrison Madison Orange Kearny Ertan City Twp. Millburn Twp. Irvington Twp. Harding Twp. South Orange-Summit Maplewood Somerset Hills Union Twp. The Chathams Springfield Twp. Newark Legend Hillside Twp. Share of Students: Kenilworth New Providence Statewide Average: **Roselle Park** Mountainside White Cranford Twp. Black Roselle Westfield Berkeley Watchung Hills Hispanic Hts Twp. / Asian Elizabeth Garwood Linden Other Scotch Winfield Twp. Enrollment Size: Plains-13,000 Fanwood North Plainfield Plainfield Rahway 3,600 Clark Twp. Green Miles Brook 80 Twp. Carteret Woodbridge Twp. South Plainfield Bridgewater-Raritan Bound Brook Dunellen Piscataway Somerville

Twp.

Edison Twp.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics.

Middlesex

NEWARK- NORTH NEW JERSEY AREA INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN **Race of Public School Students by** OPPORTUNITY School Districts in 2019-2020 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL West Essex Montclair Glen Nutley Ridge Morris Plains Verona Bloomyndhurst Hanover Park field Twp. Twp. Randolph Twp Livingston Twp. Morris Twp. Belleville North Arlington West Orange West Morris East Orange Harrison Madison Orange Kearny Ertan City Twp. Millburn Twp. Irvington Twp. Harding Twp. South Orange-Summit Maplewood Somerset Hills Union Twp. The Chathams Springfield Twp. Newark Legend Hillside Twp. Share of Students: Kenilworth New Providence Statewide Average: **Roselle Park** Mountainside White Cranford Twp. Black Roselle Westfield Berkeley Watchung Hills Hispanic Hts Twp. / Asian Elizabeth Garwood Linden Other Scotch Winfield Twp. Enrollment Size: Plains-13,000 Fanwood North Plainfield Plainfield Rahway 3,600 Clark Twp. Green Miles Brook 80 Twp. Carteret Woodbridge Twp. South Plainfield Bridgewater-Raritan Bound Brook Dunellen Piscataway Somerville Twp. Middlesex Edison Twp.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics.