

GENDERED EDUCATION

Week 7 Discussion

October 8, 2020



Gender & Education



First public institution we are investigating

- (Bodies, Marriage, & Families are “private”)
- Education is a key institution that produces and challenges gender and how gender intersects with other inequalities
- Gendered education is a stepping stone to disparities we see in gender and employment

Recap of Lecture

- Gendered subjects in school
- Gender stereotypes & bias
- Gender gap leveling off
 - More women earning degrees than men
 - Gendered college majors

Today:

- Gender & Access to Education
 - Disparities at the intersections of Race, Ethnicity, & Social Class

Questions to Ponder (Similar to Quiz & LA)

Think about your experience in K- 12:

- What experiences of your education were gendered?
 - Courses? “Feminine” vs “Masculine” subjects
 - Expectations?
 - What subjects were you good at?
 - What subjects were you praised for being good at?
 - Other experiences relative to your gender?
- How does your education compare to others of different social locations?
 - gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, etc.

Personal Reflection

- How might your K-12 experience have shaped your college experience?
 - Major? Career path?
- How has your college experience been influenced by gender, race, and social class?

What is Title IX? (Title 9)

“Forbids any form of gender discrimination in any educational activity or program that receives federal funding” (Renzetti & Curran, 2003, p. 104).

Thousands of schools and millions of students are covered:

- Elementary and secondary schools
- Colleges and universities
- Libraries
- Museums
- Vocational rehabilitation programs
- Jail/prison programs

Title IX Successes (US Dept. of Ed)

Increased:

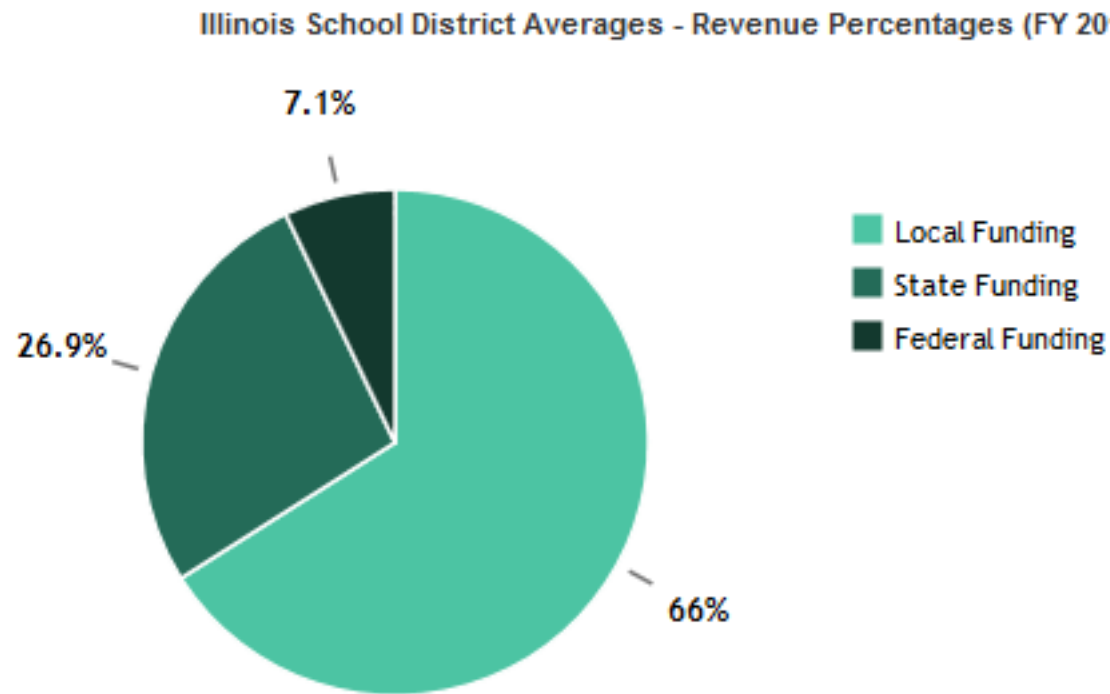
- Participation in school athletics
 - 1971: **4%** of girls played high school sports
 - 2012: **20%** of girls play high school sports
- Educational achievement
 - 1971: Women earned **44%** of all BAs
 - 2010: More than 1/2 of all BAs earned by women (**57%**)
 - 71% of females enroll in college immediately after high school
 - (61% of males)
- Access to higher education
 - Before Title IX, women could be barred from colleges (including public ones)

IN THE U.S., WE HAVE MANDATED K-12 EDUCATION

How are public schools funded?

How are public schools currently funded?

- Illinois one of the most unequal states with school funding
 - In IL, 66% of school funding is from local property taxes or other local funding



- What are the implications of this disparity for school quality?

What else could be fueling these disparities?

What do schools teach?

- **Formal Curriculum**
 - Required subjects that students must learn
 - Math, reading, science, history, etc.
- **Hidden Curriculum**



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uGsaj2HLpo>

Breakout Room Discussion

What was the *hidden curriculum*
in your schooling?

Reinforce specific gender roles/norms?

Large Group Discussion



Achievement Gaps?

(US Dept of Education, 2005)

Kindergarten/1st grade

- Girls and boys enter with same general knowledge and math skill, but girls have higher reading (evens out by 3rd grade)

High School

- Girls more likely to graduate than are boys
 - Dropout rate especially high among low-income and racial/ethnic minority students, both male and female

BUT

- Boys score higher than girls on AP exams, regardless of subject
- Boys take more coursework in math, science, and technology
- Girls underestimate their ability (esp. high IQ girls)
 - Girls think of their ability as innate, whereas boys believe they can improve

IF TITLE IX PUSHES FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN EDUCATION, WHY DO DIFFERENCE EMERGE?

Gender Bias in Teaching

Teachers claim to be bias free and yet:

Gender Bias:

- Use “girls versus boys” (competitive)
- Reward girls for being good, helpful, get right answer
- Show boys how to do things, how to solve problem
- Attribute boys academic success to natural intelligence; girls to effort

Racial & Class Bias:

- Evaluate middle class kids more favorably than low income kids
- Evaluate Black kids on social behavior, White kids on academics
 - Black students who are high achievers rebuffed/ignored compared to White students who are high achievers

Bias as a preschool problem



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucEAcIMkSoc>

Are teachers unintentionally racist?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjFiX-FvveM>

What are “zero tolerance” policies?

- Refers to harsh predefined mandatory consequences that are applied to violations of school rules without regard to the seriousness of behavior, mitigating circumstances, or situational context
- Full report: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ870076.pdf>

Biased use of “zero tolerance” discipline

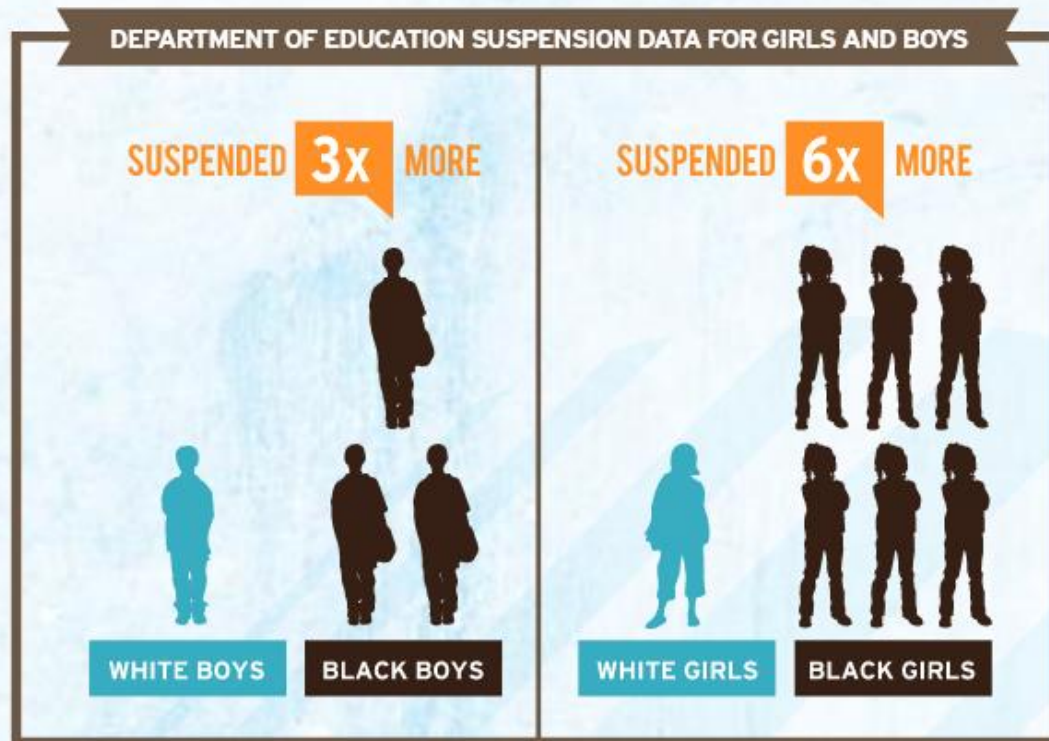
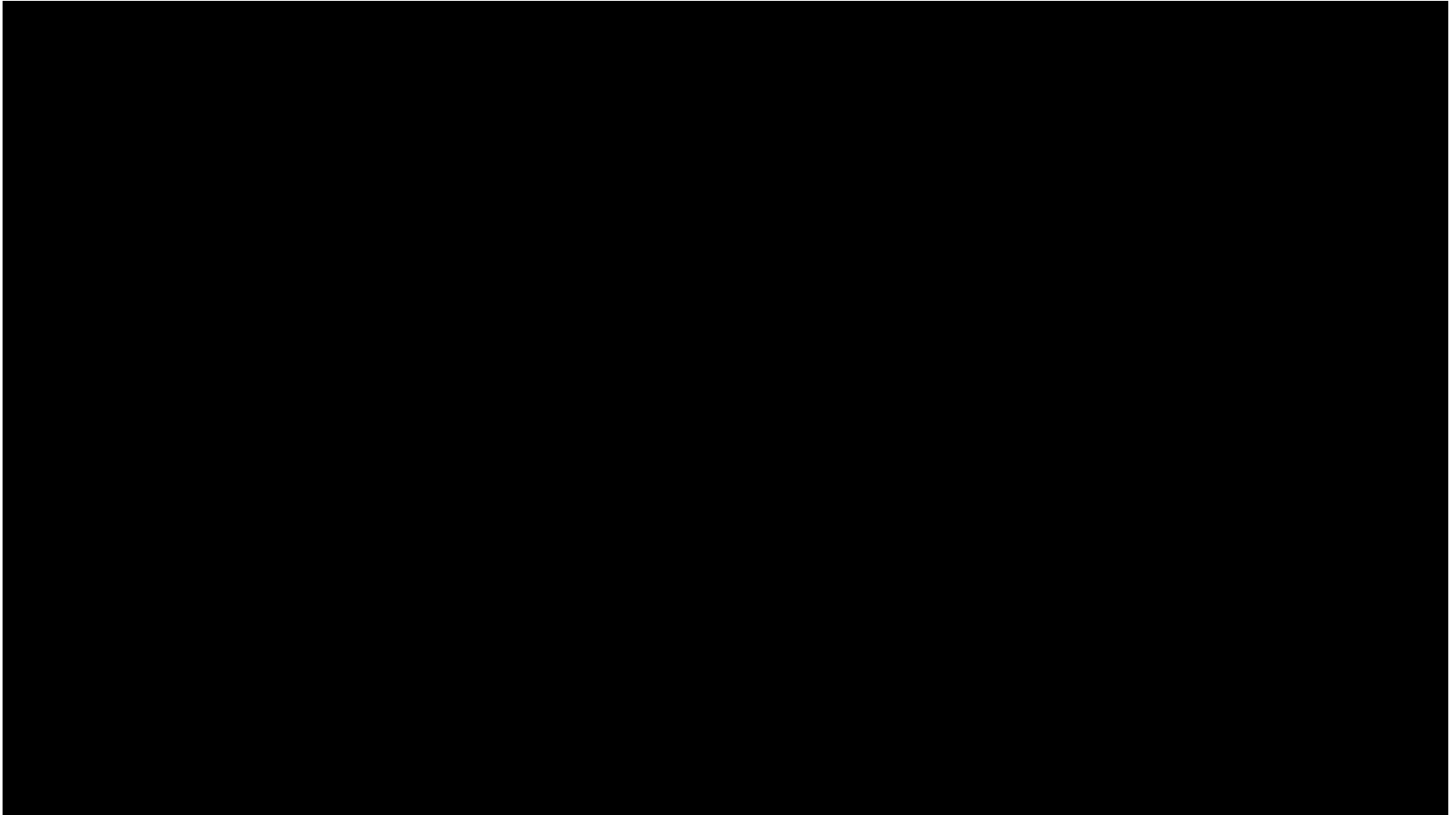


Figure 1: Intra-gender comparison of suspension rates. Department of Education, school year 2011-2012

THE LITERATURE SUGGESTS THAT BLACK GIRLS FACE HIGHER RISKS OF SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION FOR SUBJECTIVE BEHAVIORAL INFRACTIONS.

School-to-Prison Pipeline



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoKkasEyDOI>

Breakout Room Discussion

- Thoughts about these educational disparities?
- **Social Justice → Social Change**
 - How should the U.S. remedy these persisting disparities?
 - Policies?
 - Advocacy?
 - What current efforts are you aware of?
 - What do you think should be done?

Large Group Discussion



Policies?

In IL...

- The Illinois School Code has been amended to ensure accurate and representative presentation of the contributions of historically marginalized communities
 - Black History added 1980s
 - Asian Americans' contributions added in 2004
 - People with disabilities added in 2012
- Inclusive Curriculum Bill (SB3249) just passed into policy
 - Bill to include LGBTQ peoples' roles and contributions in U.S. History

Next week: Gender & Employment

- How did your K-12 education influence your college major?
- How will your college major impact your employment opportunities?

Class Study Guide for Mid-term Exam

- Post the study guide after class
- Select the concepts listed under your birth month – follow the instructions!
- Post to discussion thread for others to access
 - Understand that the resources are student-generated (may need to check for accuracy)
 - **Receive 5 extra credit points for posting!**