

# 21 DAY EQUITY CHALLENGE

#UNITEDFOREQUITY – #CREQUITYCHALLENGE

## DAY 14: Education & School-Aged Children

Earlier this week, we explored how segregation persists in American communities. Our economically and racially divided neighborhoods are leading to inequitable educational environments and adverse academic outcomes for our youth. [Studies show that children from families with low incomes](#) enter high school with literacy skills 5 years behind and are over 4 times more likely to drop out than those from high-income families. A quality education that leads to a job that pays well is one of the building blocks for a good life, yet many children in the Capital Region come from homes and neighborhoods where they face serious obstacles. [Research has indicated](#) that 46% of children are not ready to succeed in school by the age of 5, and children who aren't reading proficiently by 4th grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.

Students of color, who are more likely to attend under resourced schools than their white counterparts, suffer because of teachers working in under resourced school environments and large classes sizes, which when controlling for socioeconomic status, almost entirely explain [disparities in academic achievement](#) according to Brookings. Often, [funding of schools is the root cause for differences in opportunity and access](#) for children of color, with a direct relationship between inadequate funding and lack of opportunities. Furthermore, Black children are also criminalized and targeted by discriminatory practices in schools that suspend and expel them, which further contributes to the ["school-to-prison pipeline."](#)

**Did you know?** Inequities in education start early with lifelong impacts on children and communities. This gap in opportunity is not due to individual actions, but rather on present social and economic conditions. Unfortunately, [nearly half \(44%\) of study respondents](#) believe that educational opportunity gaps **are not** related to discrimination and injustices

### Today's Challenge:

**Option 1:** Watch [Boston teacher Kandice Sumner on the TED stage](#) discuss the disparities she sees in her classroom every day because of segregation in our school systems.

**Option 2:** Listen to the [This American Life two-part podcast special](#) about the role of integration in addressing unequal access to educational opportunities, and read [Choosing a School for My Daughter in a Segregated City](#) from the New York Times.

**Option 3:** Watch this 3-minute video of what it can feel like to be [The Only Black Kid in Class](#).

**Option 4:** Check out [ProPublica's Miseducation interactive tool](#) to locate data on racial inequity at local school districts in the Capital Region.

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Share a video from today's topic on social media using the hashtags [#unitedforequity](#), [#equitychampions](#), and [#CREquitychallenge](#)

## Questions to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- When was the first time you had a teacher who was not the same race as you? Have you ever?
- What did you learn about slavery and racism in your American history books?
- What school traditions do you remember participating in that you now understand were racist?