

RETREAT**Back of the Class**

Ten of the country's largest city school systems, compared according to the change over time in the segregation of black and white students. This study by the Lewis Mumford Center at SUNY Albany is based on the "dissimilarity index." An index of 60 means that 60 percent of one group or the other would need to switch schools for the two groups to make the distribution equal.

School system	Grade-school students (2000)	Dissimilarity index	
		1968-71	1999-2000
New York	575,000	72.2	81.7
Los Angeles	415,000	93.0	72.9
Chicago	277,000	93.7	87.7
Miami area	203,000	92.4	72.2
Ft. Lauderdale	139,000	94.1	61.0
Las Vegas area	129,000	84.6	42.4
Houston	133,000	91.7	74.1
Philadelphia	111,000	79.8	76.5
Detroit	103,000	79.3	76.2
Tampa area	94,000	87.2	46.6