

Subject: Erasing the Opportunity Gap: Achieving School Resource Equity

From:

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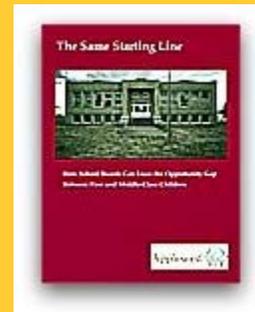
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Erasing the Opportunity...Gap

Each day children in poverty attend schools whose resources are disparate from those found in schools in more affluent areas of a district. **Georgia Appleseed** contributed to a recent Appleseed Foundation report, *The Same Starting Line: How School Boards Can Erase the Opportunity Gap Between Poor and Middle-Class Children*, which examined policies and practice related to the dissemination of learning-related education resources in select school districts in five states, including **Cobb County, Georgia**. These resources, although not dollars *per se*, can affect education profoundly and include: distribution of principals and teachers by experience and credentials; placement of new buildings and ongoing refurbishment; Advanced Placement courses; and school counselor-student ratio.



Interestingly, resource disparity by neighborhood is often overlooked by school boards, as they make decisions one-at-a-time over many years. The cumulative effect, however, results in an opportunity gap that in general gives well-off students a better chance of academic success.

Recommendations The study recommends that school boards and communities assess resource equity employing Appleseed's measurement tool, **Resource Equity Assessment Document (READ)**, included with the report. Also recommended are alignment of policies and practices to maximize equity and close monitoring going forward.

Action To transform the recommendations into action, Georgia Appleseed, along with one of its local partners, has been invited to a national Appleseed 'Convening' of representatives from parent organizations, community groups and civil rights organizations. Together they will examine policies and practices in a single school district, looking closely at "learning-related education resources", such as teacher quality and credentials, condition of school facilities, or availability of advanced curricula. The aim is threefold: 1) to have honest conversation about principles behind resource equity; 2) to explore ways to deploy the READ resource equity metric; and 3) to help these groups build advocacy plans that can lead to positive change.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Access the district resource measurement tool, **Resource Equity Assessment Document (READ)**. Three versions are available: [Basic](#) - [Detailed](#)- [Side-by-Side](#)

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