

OUTREACH TRAINING

OCTOBER 12, 2020

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

★ Overview of LAUSD

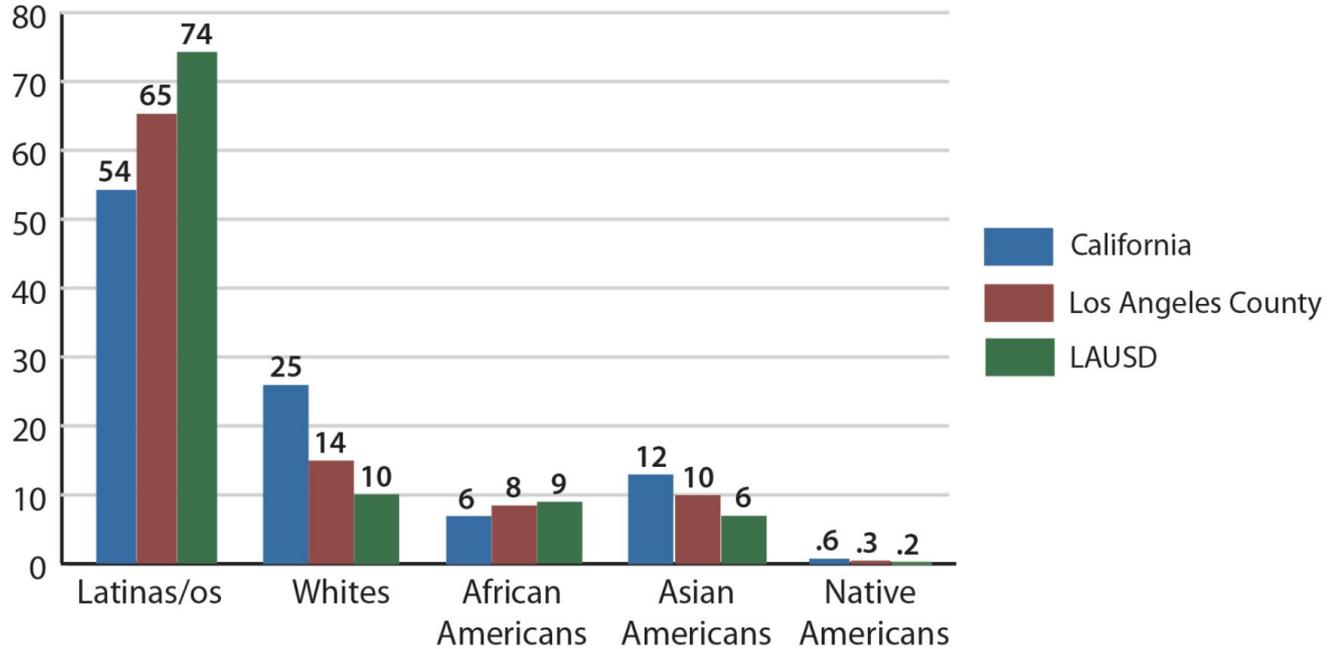
- Founded in 1961
- Second largest district of the country
- Serves 600,000+ students in K-12 grade at over 1,000 schools
- Also includes 200+ independently-operated public charter schools (Synergy Quantum Academy is one of them)
- The ethnic composition of the LAUSD student population is primarily Latino (73.4%); the remainder are African American (10.0%), White (8.8%), Asian (3.9%), Filipino (2.2%), Pacific Islander (.04%), American Indian (.04%) and two or more races, not Latino, (1%).
- In all, 92 languages other than English are spoken in LAUSD schools. The District has 161,484 English language learner students. Their primary languages are Spanish (93.4% of English language learners), Korean (1.1%), and Armenian (1.1%) with Tagalog, Cantonese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Russian each accounting for less than 1% of the total.

★ Views on LAUSD

- Characterized by
 - Low wages and poor training for educators
 - Underfunding of arts programs, athletics, and academic resources (test prep, technology, etc.)
 - Achievement Gap: persistent disparities in measures of educational performance among subgroups of U.S. students, especially groups defined by socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity and gender.
 - In 2017, only ~ 30 percent of students met math standards, while about 70 percent didn't, including 26 percent who "nearly met" the standards, according to results of the third year of state math and English tests aligned to the Common Core standards.
 - On the English and literacy front, 40 percent of LAUSD students met or exceeded standards, and another 24 percent "nearly met" those standards.



Figure 4. Percentage of K-12 Students Enrolled in California, Los Angeles County, and Los Angeles Unified School District, by Race/Ethnicity, 2014–15

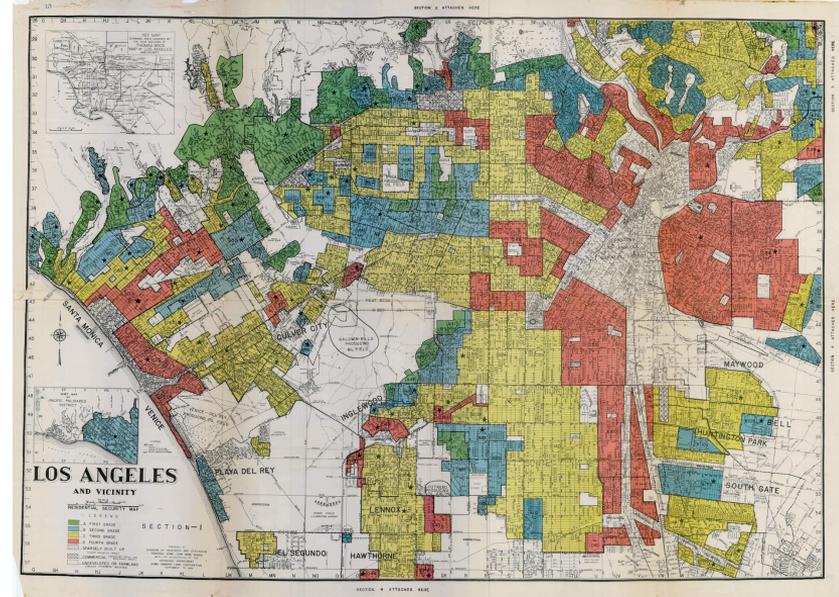


Source: Drawn from California Department of Education data for the 2014–15 school year.

REDLINING

★ What is redlining?

- In the 1930s, a myriad of discriminatory laws/policies sought to essentially segregate neighborhoods/cities
 - Racially restrictive covenants would state that a home can only to be sold to white people and not people of color
 - According to federal guidelines, banks in the early twentieth century would not give mortgage loans for homes located in minority residential communities - white homeowners were given priority
 - As a result, minorities were “redlined” - Black and Latinx folk were only allowed to live in certain areas, white people in other areas, and Asian folk in other areas.
 - Areas that were predominantly comprised of white people had the best hospitals, schools, and other facilities
 - Redlining has been directly associated to the racial wealth gap in America
 - Black families have lost out on at least \$212,000 in personal wealth over the last 40 years because their home was redlined.

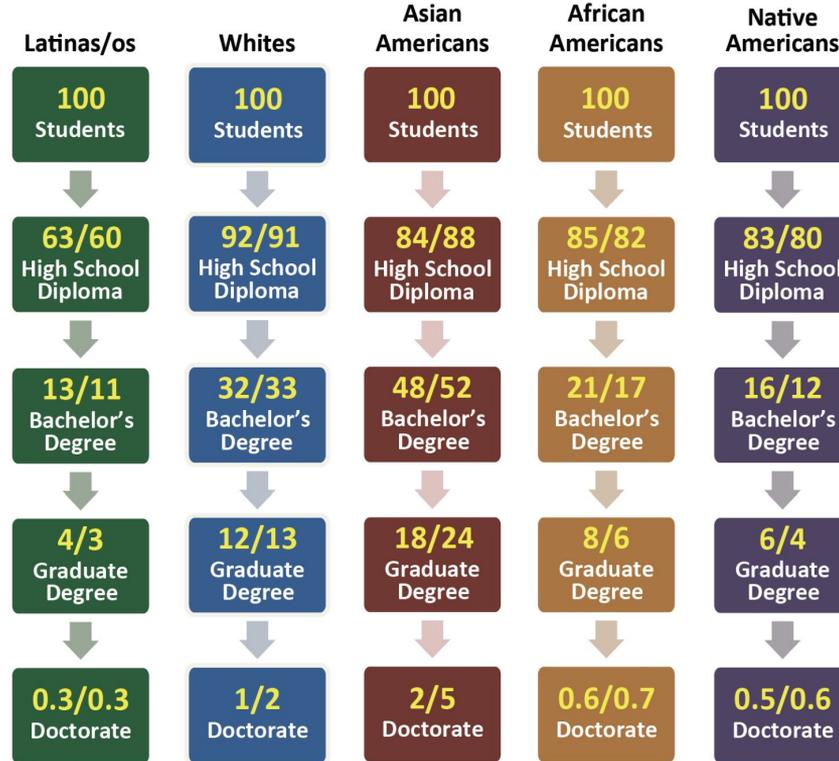


★ Redlining in Los Angeles

- Redlining has been attributed as a leading cause of the disparities in education amongst minorities compared to their white counterparts
 - This is why areas that are predominantly Latinx and Black have low standardized test scores, low graduation rates, and low college enrollment rates.

If you would like to learn more about
redlining, check out this article:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/redlining-what-is-history-mike-bloomberg-comments/>

Figure 1. The US Education Pipeline, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2012



Source: Drawn from American Community Survey [ACS] data for 2012, compiled by the US Bureau of the Census.
 Note: The first number represents females, the second, males.

If you would like to learn more about the intersections of race and the education pipeline, check out this article:

<https://www.chicano.ucla.edu/files/RR19.pdf>

SYNERGY QUANTUM ACADEMY



★ Overview of SQA

- 1 of 3 charter schools under Synergy Academies (founded in 2004)
- SQA was founded in 2011 with the mission of closing the achievement gap in South Central Los Angeles
- STEM-focused school
- Serves predominantly Latinx and Black students

★ Why should the Signaling Systems Laboratory outreach to SQA?

- The breadth of careers in STEM is largely not explored in SQA, and ultimately, high schools in inner city communities. Students must be exposed to the variety of careers/paths available in STEM.
- Inspire curiosity amongst students about science - science is cool!
- Giving students knowledge and experience that will make them more competitive when applying to college