

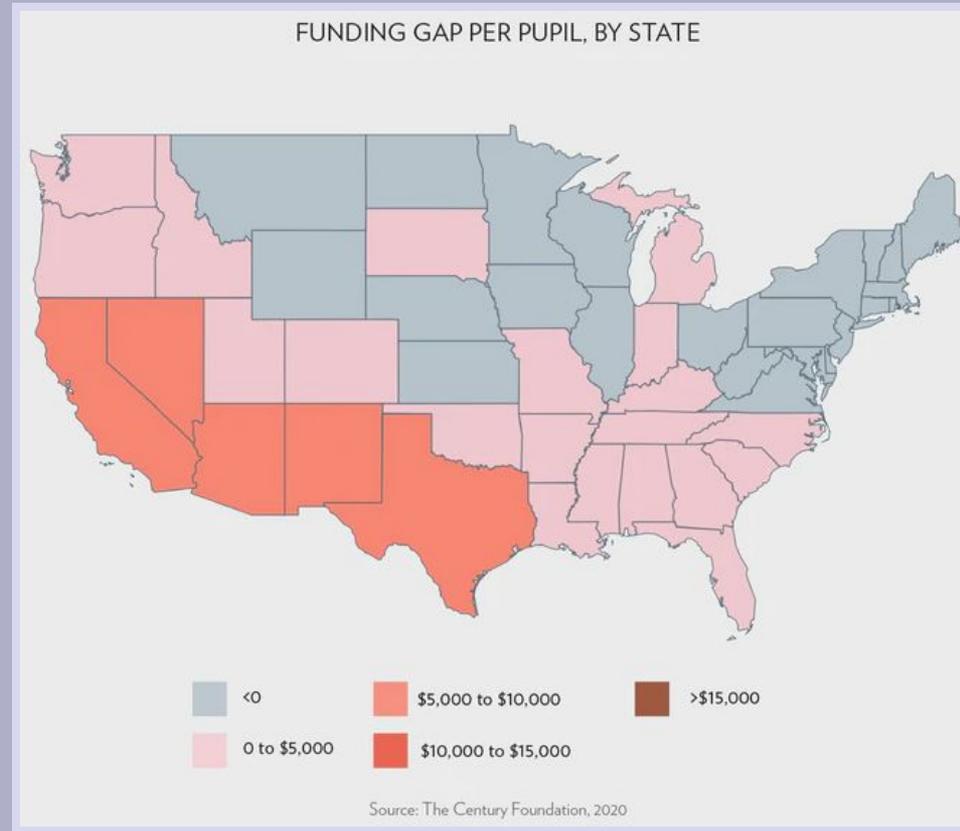
Funding For Education

By: Reese Covalle

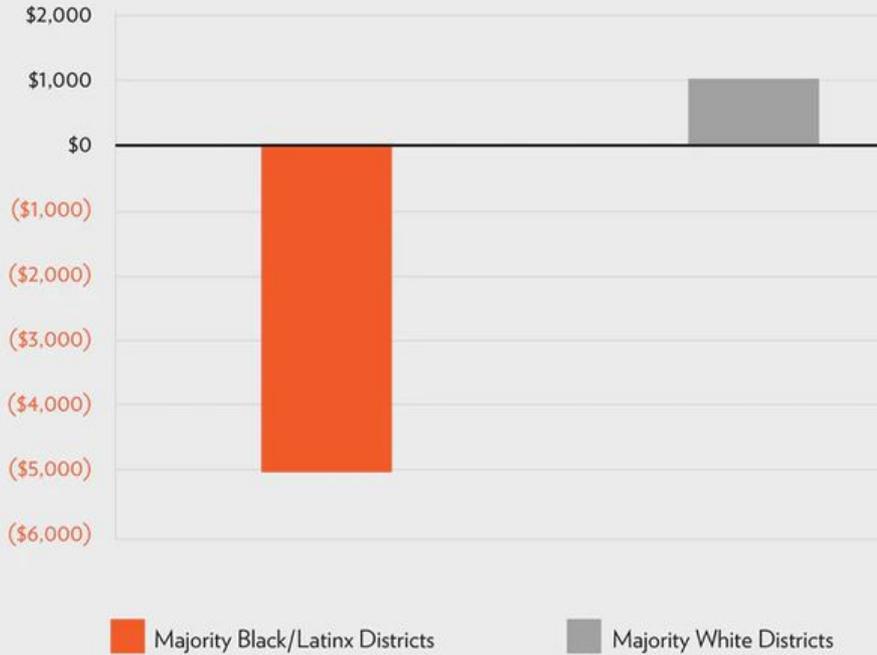
Education is the backbone of our society. It is the way we teach the next generation, how we shape who takes our place. But what does our education system value? What do we teach and what don't we teach? How and who do we give our resources to? Funding should be spread out evenly and education should be a top priority for our nation, but as of right now, there is a long way to go.

The fact is, education opportunities and resources are not spread out evenly. This has long been the case, but not a lot has been done about it. The gap has continued to grow between high and low poverty districts, which has led to achievement gaps, unsafe places to learn, discomfort in schools and social gaps as well..

Plus, the whole issue provides a problem for the future of our nation. So why is this happening? And more importantly, what can we do about it?



AVERAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING GAP, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



Source: The Century Foundation

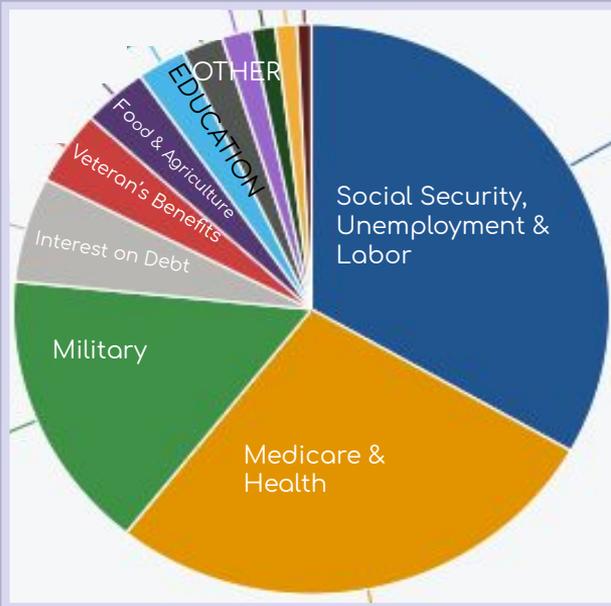
To help answer the question of why this is happening, we can look at the patterns we see. In many of the districts, there is a significant pattern based on race.

Districts that are majority Black/Latinx are far more likely to have a funding gap, and these districts experience significantly higher gaps as well. According to this graph, there is an average of a 6,000 dollar gap between Majority Black/Latinx districts and Majority White Districts.

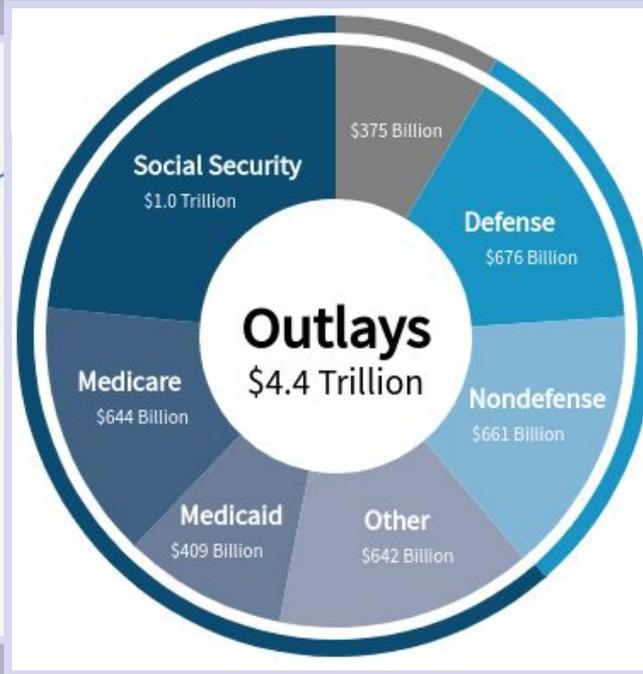
So, race is definitely a factor in the inequality of these districts and should not be overlooked when we think of a solution.

(The 0\$ represents when there would be a 0\$ gap between the districts)

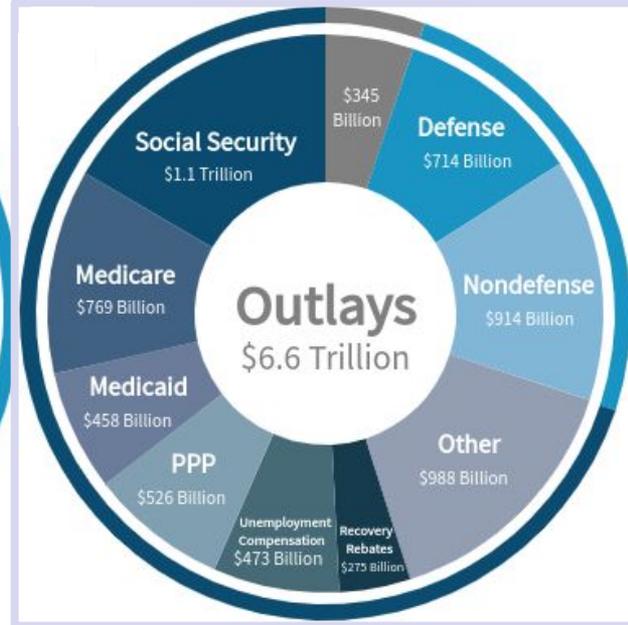
Education Percentages Over the Years



2015
Education- 2.67%



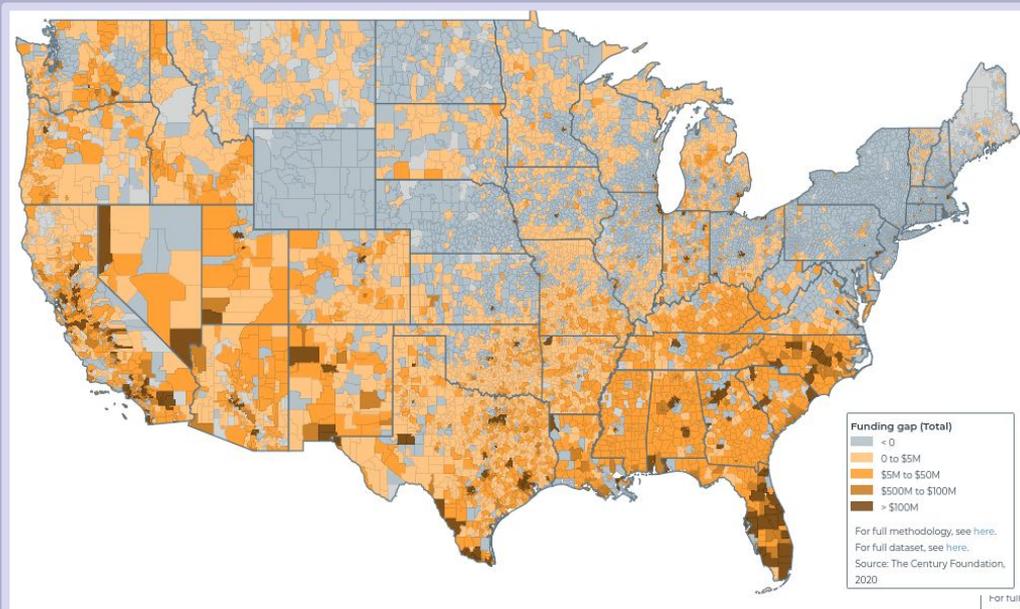
2019
Education- 13.61%



2020
Education- 0.97%

So what can be done? Well, we can educate ourselves and others. Keep yourself updated on events relating to this and let people know that this is a problem. Bring it up in conversations, ask questions, and get people thinking about why education is valuable.

There are also many resources that give information about ways to go about solving this problem. For example, the Century Foundation created a model to show the amount needed to erase funding gaps. In addition, the President is proposing the American Families Plan which would add around 62 billion dollars to education.



Finally, people in power have the ability to slow down the process and make it as long and challenging as possible, but they also have the ability to speed these actions up and help wherever they can. They may have been a part of the problem, but the more important thing is that we recognize that and learn how we can all be a part of the solution. Because while there is also the power of the people, giving each and every one of us the opportunity to make a difference.

