

No Child Left Behind & School Choice

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No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

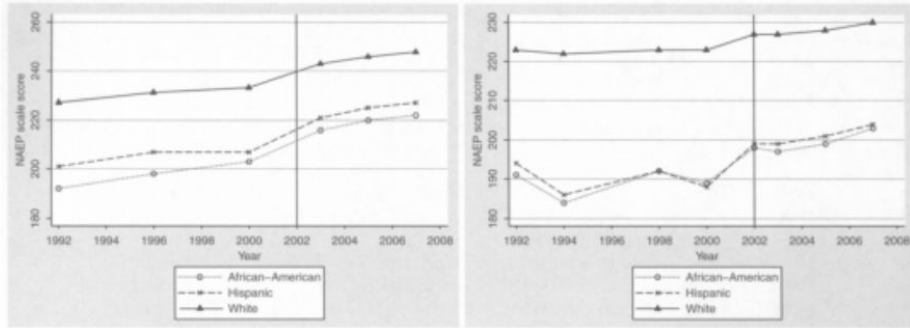
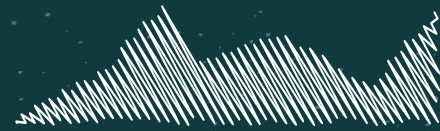


- In 2002 President Bush enacted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
 - This bipartisan law was intended to make American students more competitive internationally by establishing measurable goals for students and applying business strategies to the educational system.
- To receive federal funding states had to test students in reading and math annually from 3rd-8th grade and once in high school and then had to report these scores by demographic breakdown.
 - All students had to be “proficient” by the 2013-2014 although states could dictate what “proficient” means
 - Schools also had to make Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and any schools who fail to meet these achievement gaps were subject to increasingly harsher punishments
 - For example schools not making adequate AYP for two years in a row would have to allow for the option of students transferring to another school.



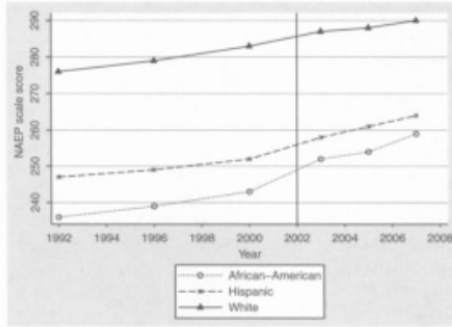


DATA



(a) Grade 4 mathematics

(b) Grade 4 reading



(c) Grade 8 mathematics

Figure 1. Mean scaled score on the main NAEP for all public schools.

Figure 1. Percentage of schools that did not make AYP, 2006-2011

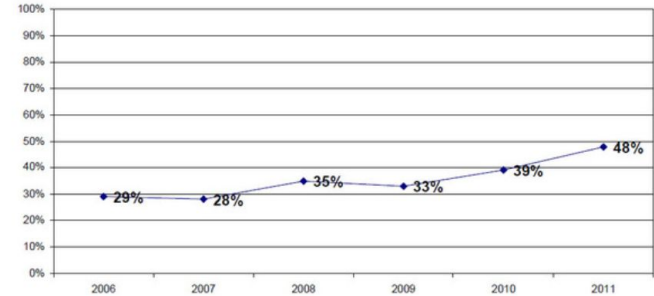


Figure reads: In 2006, 29% of the nation's schools did not make adequate yearly progress. By 2011, this percentage had increased to 48%.

There doesn't appear to be statistically significant difference in the upward trend of scores before NCLB and after. There also an increase in schools not making AYP which is increasing the amount of students leaving the public school system.





School Choice



- School Choice is an umbrella term for alternatives to the public school system.
- The School Choice Movement increased after the implementation of NCLB because many people found themselves in schools that were not meeting their AYP goals.
- A variety of programs were started including **School Voucher Programs** which give families money so that they can enroll in a school of their choice, traditionally private schools.
- **Magnet schools** are public schools that cater to a specific topic and traditionally you have to apply to go to one
- **Charter schools** are schools that receive government funding but operate outside of the public school system.


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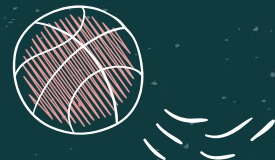
STUDY
HARD!



The Debate



- Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of Delaware K-12 students participate in school choice with approximately 11% of them attending a charter school (almost twice the national average of 5.85%)
- Those who **support** school choice say that it gives parents more control over their child's education and helps them go to a school that fits their needs best. School Vouchers also allow students to attend schools they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to attend and get out of low income and/or poor performing schools. 
- Those who **oppose** school choice say that it takes away money from public schools as well as taking away the highest performing students from underperforming schools making them perform worse. It has also been seen as a way for families to get students out of high minority schools which increases the racial divide.





Works Cited



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