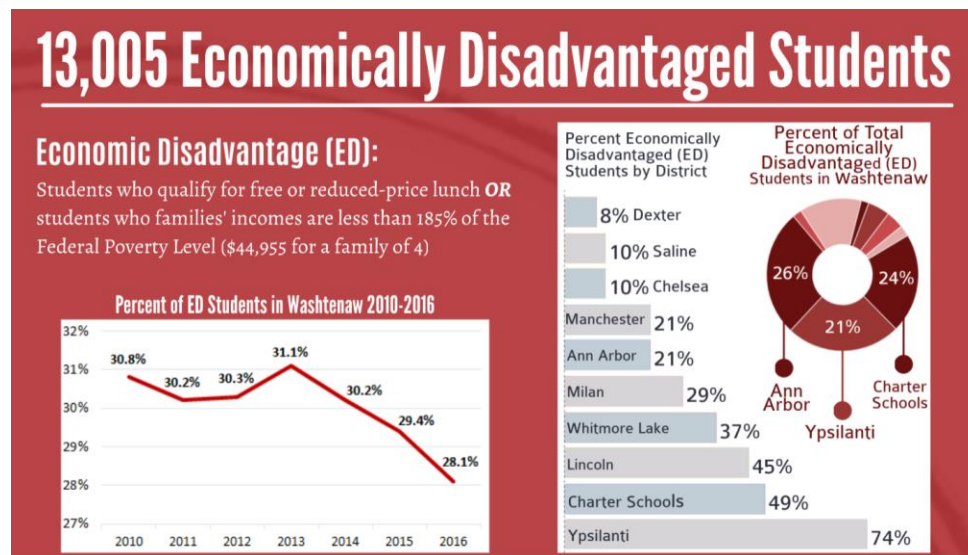


DAY 14: Education & School-Aged Children

Earlier this week, we explored how segregation persists in American communities. Our economically and racially divided neighborhoods are leading to inequitable educational environments and adverse academic outcomes for our youth. [Studies show that children from families with low incomes](#) enter high school with literacy skills 5 years behind and are over 4 times more likely to drop out than those from high-income families. Students of color, who are more likely to attend under resourced schools than their white counterparts, suffer because of teachers working in under resourced school environments and large classes sizes, which when controlling for socioeconomic status, almost entirely explain [disparities in academic achievement](#) according to Brookings.

Did you know? The [Washtenaw Alliance for Children and Youth \(WACY\)](#) is a collective impact effort working to support children from cradle to career through a [common agenda](#). According to the [2017 Report Card](#) the percent of students in Washtenaw County that are economically disadvantaged has declined, yet students experiencing these conditions are still less likely to graduate from high school.



Source: WACY Report Card 2017

Today's Challenge:

Option 1: [Washtenaw County parents are advocating for better inclusion](#) at Bryant and Pattengill elementary schools where only 20 percent of black students achieved academic proficiency in all subjects compared to 63 percent of white students. Read MLive's coverage [here](#).

Option 2: [Explore the Michigan College Access Network Impact Map](#), which shows that while Washtenaw County ranks first in the state for 'College Readiness' when looking at all students,

it ranks 20th and 11th when looking at the 'College Readiness of economically disadvantaged and underrepresented minorities, respectively.

Option 3: Watch [Boston teacher Kandice Sumner on the TED stage](#) discuss the disparities she sees in her classroom every day because of segregation in our school systems.

Option 4: Listen to the [This American Life two-part podcast special](#) on how integration is needed to close the achievement gap.

Option 5: Black students who have one black teacher by third grade are 13 percent more likely to enroll in college. Listen to the [WEMU Washtenaw United interview with 'Black Men Read'](#) an Ypsilanti based nonprofit promoting the power of storytelling and literacy in children.

Option 6: Journal on your own early childhood. Did you have teachers who looked like you? Did you have toys and books that looked like you? What messages were you taught about race? How did those messages compare to what you saw around you?

Option 7: Watch this funny 3 minute video of what it can feel like to be [The Only Black Kid in Class](#).

Share your reflections on today's topic on social media using the hashtag **#unitedforequity** and tag **@uwwashtenaw**.