

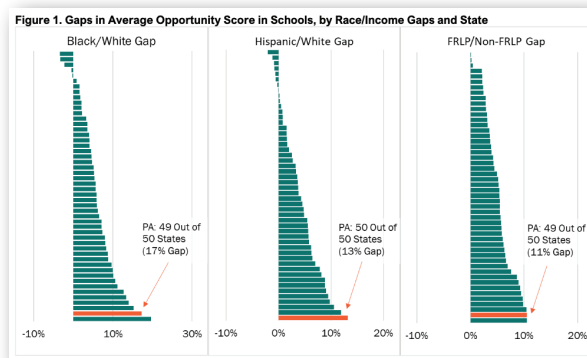
## UNEQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN PA

Even though Pennsylvania's students consistently score above the national average on overall student achievement, the state's achievement gaps between White and Black students, and White and Hispanic students are consistently among the worst in the country.

A [new report from Research For Action \(RFA\)](#) details the unequal access to educational opportunity that results in such a staggering achievement gap for Pennsylvania students.

### Here's what they found:

- White students in PA are provided greater access to educational opportunity compared to White students in most states.
- In contrast, Black and Hispanic students in PA are provided less access to educational opportunity than Black and Hispanic students in most states.
- PA's gaps in access to educational opportunity are among the largest when it comes to providing equal opportunity across racial and income groups, ranking the state in the bottom two in the nation.



### Two factors contribute to PA's deep racial inequity in access to educational opportunity:

- First, Black and Hispanic students are disproportionately enrolled in high-poverty schools and those schools provide less access to educational opportunity.
- Second, even within schools with medium or high concentrations of poverty, White students are more likely than Black and Hispanic students to be enrolled in those schools that provide greater access to educational opportunity.

To help policymakers and the public further understand educational opportunity in Pennsylvania and across all 50 states, RFA has developed the [Educational Opportunity Dashboard](#).

RFA concludes that, "While troubling disparities in access to educational opportunity by race and income exist in most states, the size and pervasiveness of PA's gaps are among the most severe in the country... Few states provide so much opportunity to their White students and yet so little for their Black and Hispanic students. Few states provide so much less to their poor students compared to their non-poor students. **Policymakers and the education community should prioritize closing these gaps to ensure that race and income don't continue to dictate access to high-quality educational opportunity for Pennsylvania's youth.**"

CLOSE PENNSYLVANIA'S **\$4.6B** PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING GAP

Property taxes are rising, and public schools are struggling.