Students and Teacher Race/Ethnicity

Students and Teachers with the Same Race/Ethnicity

A very low percentage of non-white students in the Oregon public school population have had teachers with the same race/ethnicity as their own within the past three years¹. The figures in the chart below represent the percentage of students within a racial/ethnic group who have had zero teachers with the same race/ethnicity within the past three years, broken down by grade group². Of note, only 6% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander high school students have had a Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander teacher within the past three years. Also, only two-thirds of high school students in any underserved³ racial/ethnic group have had any teachers who also have an underserved race/ethnicity within the past three years.

1 Data were pulled from the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 school years for students who were enrolled within their district for a full academic year, as of the first school day in May. Teachers were included if they were teaching a course on the first school day in May and were employed by the district on December 1 for at least 20 consecutive school days. Data are pulled from the Class Roster, Staff Position, and Cumulative ADM collections.

2 Elementary is defined as grades KG – 5; Middle is defined as grades 6-8; High is defined as grades 9-12. Students’ data are included in the grade group they were enrolled in during the 2015-2016 school year.

3 Underserved is defined as Black/African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
Students and Teachers with a Different Race/Ethnicity
The chart below displays another way to look at these same data, showing students who have had teachers of a different race/ethnicity than their own within the past three years. Of interest here, 72% of white high school aged students have had at least one teacher of a different race/ethnicity within the past three years, while only 21% of white elementary aged students have had this opportunity.

41% of White high school students have had two or more teachers with a different race/ethnicity than theirs in the past three years.

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4 Data were pulled from the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 school years for students who enrolled within their district for a full academic year, as of the first school day in May. Teachers were included if they were teaching a course on the first school day in May and were employed by the district on December 1 for at least 20 consecutive school days. Data are pulled from the Class Roster, Staff Position, and Cumulative ADM collections.

5 Elementary is defined as grades KG – 5; Middle is defined as grades 6-8; High is defined as grades 9-12. Students’ data are included in the grade group they were enrolled in during the 2015-2016 school year.

6 Underserved is defined as Black/African American, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
Students by Race/Ethnicity and the Level of Their Teacher’s Education

The chart below displays the number of teachers who have acquired a master’s degree or higher level of education, per student racial/ethnic group. Differences between racial/ethnic groups are similar across grade levels and race/ethnicity.

Students having Teachers with a Master’s Degree or Higher

There is some variation in educational opportunities for students based on their race/ethnicity. Research shows that race/ethnicity differences between teachers and students can affect subjective areas of education (Ehrenberg, Brewer, & Goldhaber, 1995), student behavior (Banks & McGee Banks, 2010), and achievement (Dee, 2004).

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7 Data were pulled from the 2015-2016 school year only, but meet the other requirements found in footnotes 4, 5, and 6 above.
8 Elementary School Student data only has two categories (1 or more Teacher and 0 Teachers) because elementary school students are often in self-contained classes, where only the homeroom is reported in the Class Roster collection.