

# DEFINING SEGREGATION, DESEGREGATION, AND INTEGRATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

## Overview of Key Definitions and Themes

### Defining Desegregation and Integration

- **Desegregation:** The removal of structural barriers to allow students of different races to attend the same school. Indicators of school desegregation focus on the demographic makeup of the school—including classrooms and academic programs—and its corresponding neighborhoods.
- **Integration:** The creation of educational communities where students and adults of different races not only teach and learn but also collaborate to advance the educational experience of the entire student body. Indicators of integration include diverse school staff, student engagement in inclusive academics, and the incorporation of student voices.

### Massey and Denton's Five Dimensions of Segregation

- **Evenness:** Whether members of a group compose the same share of the population in each subdivision of a city or metropolitan area.
- **Exposure:** Whether members of a group have opportunities to interact with members of other groups.
- **Concentration:** Whether members of a group are spread across a smaller physical space than members of another group.
- **Centralization:** Whether members of a group are primarily located near the center of a city or metropolitan area.
- **Clustering:** Whether members of a group are located within a single contiguous region or dispersed throughout a city or metropolitan area

### Themes of Desegregation and Integration From Practitioners

- **Enrollment evenness:** Within-district distribution of different student/family groups.
- **Student outcomes:** Attention to how different student groups achieve success at school and beyond.
- **Access:** Equitable opportunities across student groups within schools to access learning experiences, relationships, and resources.
- **Engagement:** Student and community perceptions of belonging, school and class attendance, and in-class participation.
- **Exposure:** Opportunities to interact and develop relationships across peer and adult group differences.