

PRRAC

Poverty & Race
Research Action Council

1989

PRRAC is established along with its Social Science Advisory Board, which included some of the leading advocates and researchers in the fields of housing and school desegregation, and the connection between housing and education policy.

2004

PRRAC publishes a trio of historical studies on housing, transportation and education, including "The Last and Most Difficult Barrier: Segregation and Federal Housing Policy in the Eisenhower Administration, 1953-1960."

2009

President Barack Obama is elected.

PRRAC's housing and school integration policies begins to move more aggressively.

PRRAC works with other civil rights organizations to establish the National Coalition on School Diversity (NCSD).

2011

PRRAC organizes a training for HUD, ED, and DOJ staff to summarize research on the connections between housing and school segregation and to promote dialogue between the agencies on this issue.

PRRAC and NCSD publish "Finding Common Ground: Coordinating Housing and Education Policy to Promote Integration."

PRRAC and NCSD begin multi-year advocacy effort to bring HUD and the Department of Education together on issues of housing and school integration.

NCSD publishes the research brief "The Reciprocal Relationship Between Housing and School Integration."

2012

PRRAC publishes "Do Federally Assisted Households Have Access to High Performing Public Schools?"

Connecting Housing and School Integration Policy

There is substantial evidence that school and housing integration have positive and reciprocal intergenerational impacts leading to improved education and economic outcomes for children who grow up in integrated environments, as well as a greater tolerance for, and desire to live and raise families in integrated communities as adults. There is also a powerful mutually reinforcing connection between housing and school policy and segregation, and yet there is a continuing policy disconnect between the two sectors. As a civil rights policy organization with deep background in both housing and education, PRRAC has been at the forefront of efforts to connect these two policy areas to harness their potential to support racial and economic integration.

Future Directions for PRRAC's Exploration of the School-Housing Nexus

Study of housing-education coordination in two Maryland counties: PRRAC is supporting a study by University of Maryland researchers of intersecting housing, education, and transportation policies in two Maryland County school districts facing increased racial and economic diversity.

Coordination at the state government level: The Obama administration's call to state housing, education, and transportation agencies to work together to promote racial and economic integration is still at an early stage of implementation. We are planning a survey of selected states to assess the depth of collaboration that is going on, and to propose model state coordination strategies. We also intend to go deeper in 2-3 states (possibly in MD and NY), where there is a potential for real coordination.

Research and planning conference, summer 2019: Working with a group of academic researchers associated with PRRAC's Social Science Advisory Board and NCSD's Research Advisory Panel, we are planning a housing-schools conference that will include both research insights and an opportunity for researchers, advocates, and practitioners to engage in a multi-hour conversation to develop actionable policies to connect housing, education, and transportation policy in a specific metro area.

Washington, DC Fair Housing Plan: PRRAC is one of the organizations selected to prepare the HUD-required 2019 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the District of Columbia, and we hope to include a robust section on disparities in access to high-performing schools, and suggestions for how to coordinate housing and school policy in the District.

Model policies for districts undergoing rapid change: In cities facing significant demographic shifts, whether they involve public housing redevelopment, planned school closings, or gentrification pressures on an already overcrowded system, there are both challenges and opportunities to increase economic and racial integration for existing students. As part of the planned 2018 conference, we will develop a set of principles and practices to maximize positive outcomes for students and communities.

2015

NCSD publishes “Linking Housing And School Integration Policy: What Federal, State And Local Governments Can Do”.

PRRAC engages in extensive commentary and advocacy with HUD around the emerging AFFH rule, which eventually includes “Access to Proficient Schools” as an analytical metric.

PRRAC and NCSD work with local advocates and researchers at VCU in Richmond, Virginia, to organize a series of meetings with both housing and education policy leaders in the region to explore the potential for developing mutually supporting policies.

2016

PRRAC advocacy efforts culminate in Obama administration June 2016 joint guidance letter to state governments on housing and school integration.

PRRAC/NCSD work closely with the Department of Education to organize a conference to release the new guidance, bringing together advocates and practitioners from across the country.

PRRAC/NCSD assist in the drafting of guidance on analyzing local education policies and disparities as part of the new HUD AFFH process (this guidance document was not released by the Trump administration).

2018

The PRRAC Social Science Advisory Board and the NCSD Research Advisory Panel meet to identify new lines of research that might be helpful in advancing the field.

PRRAC completes the Assessment of Fair Housing for Contra Costa County, California, which included an analysis of access to proficient schools.

PRRAC publishes a field report: “Changing the Perception of Pasadena Unified School District Through an Innovative Realtor Outreach Program.”

PRRAC publishes a research report: “Housing and Educational Opportunity: Characteristics of Local Schools Near Families with Federal Housing Assistance.”

PRRAC publishes a research brief: “Deconstructing Segregation in Syracuse?”

PRRAC co-hosts a meeting in Baltimore to explore possible connections between housing and school integration in the region.

PRRAC and the National Housing Trust publishes a program review: “Developing Opportunity: Innovative Models for Strategic Housing Acquisition.”

2019

PRRAC plans to release “Coordinated Action on Housing and Schools Integration: The Role of the State.”

Upcoming research conference on housing and school integration.



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