

# A Brief Overview of Public School Demographics and Segregation In Massachusetts

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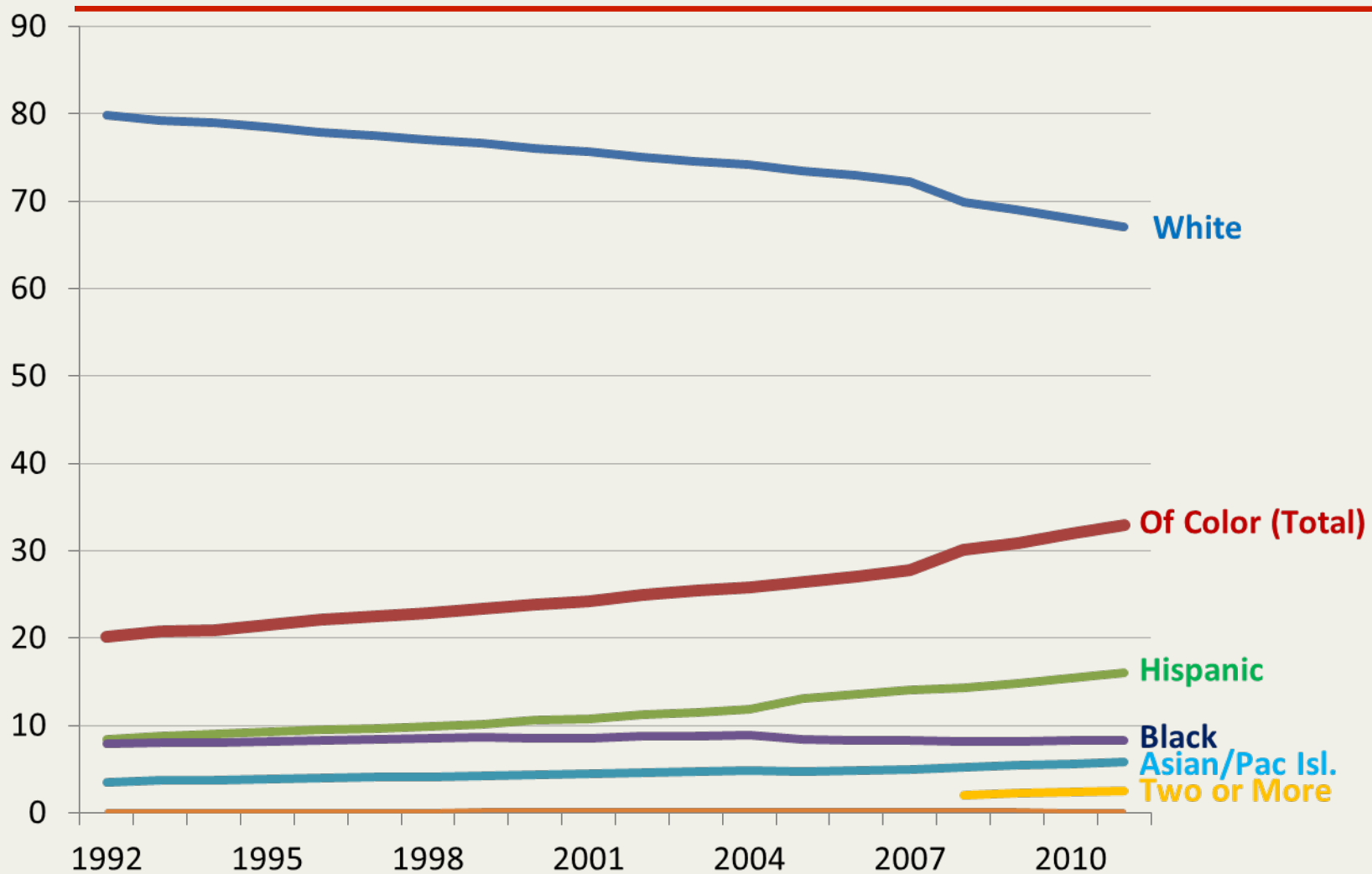
## **Where Integration Meets Innovation**

*Creating, Sustaining and Improving Dynamic & Diverse  
Public Schools for the 21st Century*

Hartford, CT  
November 9, 2013

Nancy McArdle

# Children of color have increased from a fifth to a third of Massachusetts public school students over the past two decades (Percent of enrollment)

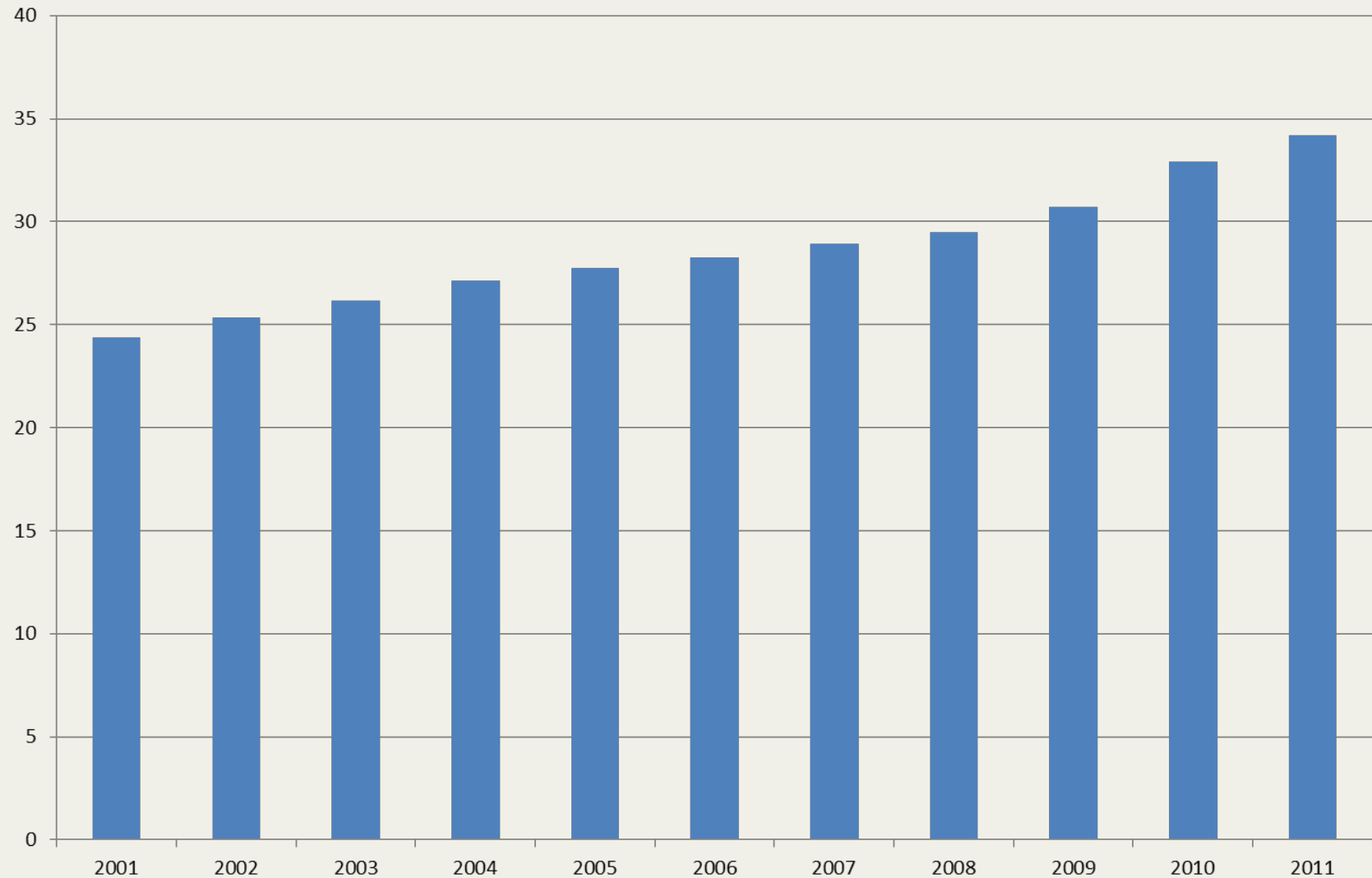


Note: All groups (except Hispanics) exclude Hispanic members.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, 1992 to 2010; MA Dept. of Education, 2011 to 2012.

## Massachusetts public school students eligible for free or reduced lunch increased from 24% to 34% over past decade

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Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, 1992 to 2010; MA Dept. of Education, 2011 to 2012.

## Among the 100 largest metropolitan areas, MA metros rank high in terms of public, primary school segregation, particularly for Hispanic students

	Hispanic		Black	
Metro Area	Rank	Index	Rank	Index
Springfield	2	72.3	10	75.3
Boston	3	70.2	28	70.0
Prov./ New Bed./Fall Riv.	8	65.2	46	60.5
Worcester	22	60.8	44	63.5

Note: Index presented is the dissimilarity index, which ranges from 0 to 100 and reflects the percent of students that would have to move to another school to attain complete desegregation across the metro.

Source: diversitydata.org calculations on NCES, Common Core of Data, 2010-11.

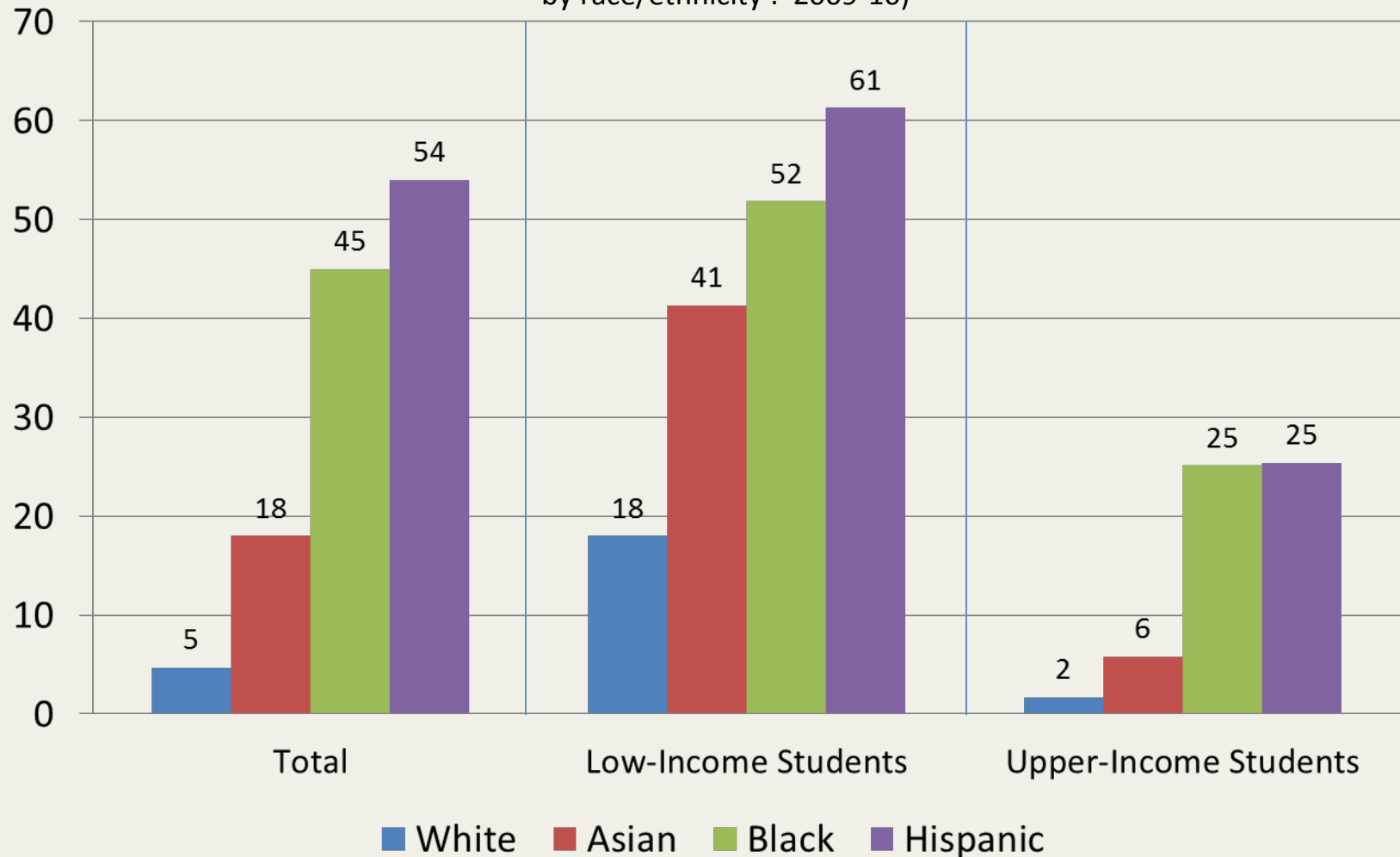
## The fragmented nature of school districts in Massachusetts contributes to high levels of segregation

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- Metro Boston is one of the most fragmented metro areas in the U.S. in terms of school districts
- With 162 separate school districts, Metro Boston has about 1 district for every 3,500 students
- In contrast, the similarly-sized Seattle metro has about 1 district for every 10,000 students
- On average, in the 25 largest metros, there is about 1 district for every 7,200 students

# Students of color are more likely to be in concentrated poverty schools, even controlling for students' own income levels

(Percent of MA public primary school students in schools with poverty rates over 75%, by race/ethnicity : 2009-10)

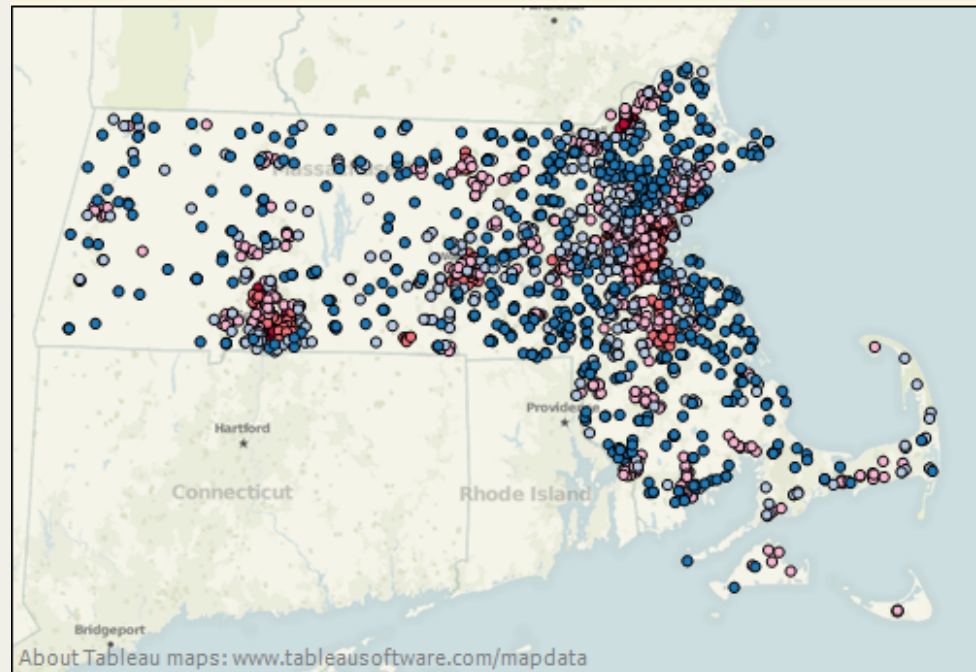


Note: Excludes schools with students in grade 9 or higher. Income levels and poverty defined as free/reduced lunch eligibility. Excludes data on racial groups in schools with less than six students total of that particular group, reflecting MA DOE suppression of that data.

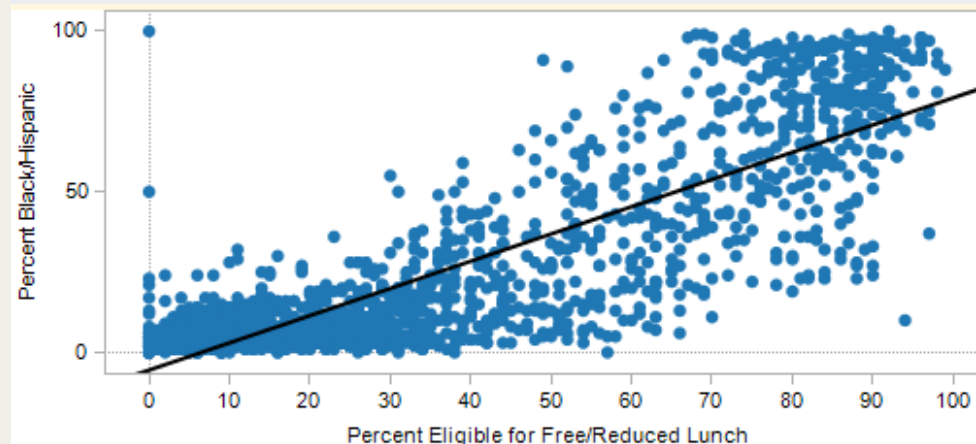
Source: diversitydata.org calculations of MA Dept. of Education enrollment data for 2009-10 school year.

The strong correlation (0.86) between share black/Hispanic and school poverty status can be seen throughout the state using this publicly available [map and data](#).

Massachusetts Public Schools  
Racial and Economic Segregation: 2010-2011  
(hover over school to see data)

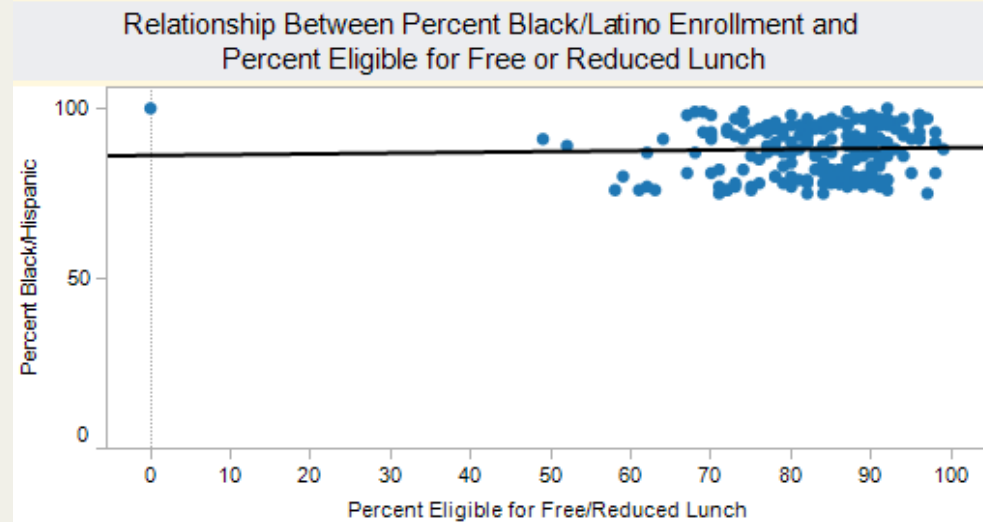
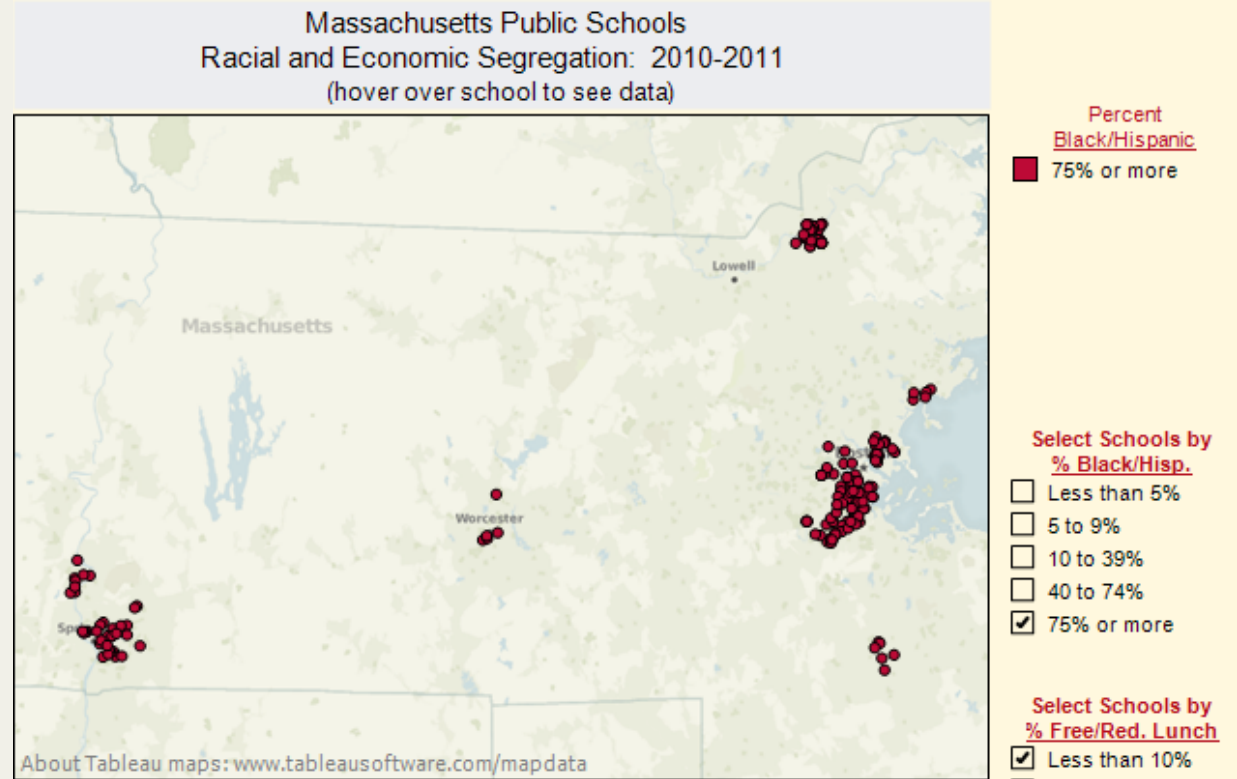


Relationship Between Percent Black/Latino Enrollment and Percent Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch



Source: Nancy McArdle calculations of NCES Common Core of Data: 2010-2011

Schools with high shares black/Hispanic students are clustered geographically and almost all have poverty levels over 50%.

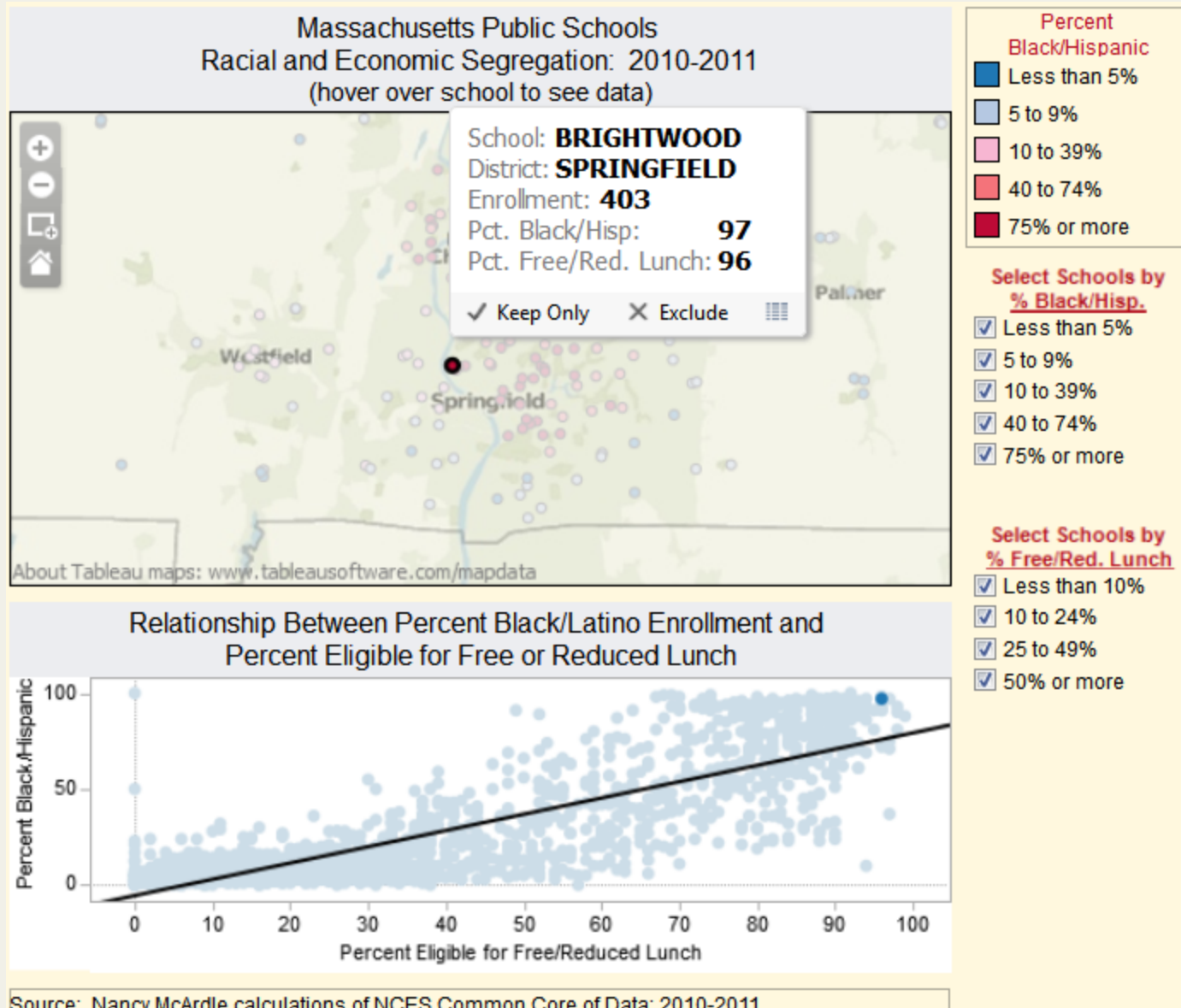


Source: Nancy McArdle calculations of NCES Common Core of Data: 2010-2011



Zoom in to a particular area to highlight a school, examine neighboring schools, and pull up descriptive info.

Zoom →



# Thinking Outside the District

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# In General, Schools Outside Boston Public Schools (BPS) But Within 5 Miles Exhibit Much Lower Levels of Concentrated Poverty

(Percent of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch  
in Public Schools with 4<sup>th</sup> Grades: 2008-09)

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<u>School</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>3 Zone Median %</u>	<u>5 Zone Median %</u>	<b>Outside BPS Within 5 Miles <u>Median %</u></b>
Kilmer	W. Roxbury	75.8	72.5	8.1
Conley	Roslindale	75.8	72.5	8.5
Winship	Brighton	85.6	81.2	22.0
Mather	Dorchester	82.7	84.9	22.1
Mendell	Roxbury	75.8	85.9	30.8
Eliot	Central (N. End)	85.6	85.9	59.9
Otis	East Boston	85.6	87.4	61.9

Source: Nancy McArdle calculations of data from  
MA Dept. of Education.