

# Inter-District Transfer Programs: Allowing Students to Move Across Boundaries

Jenna M. Tomasello  
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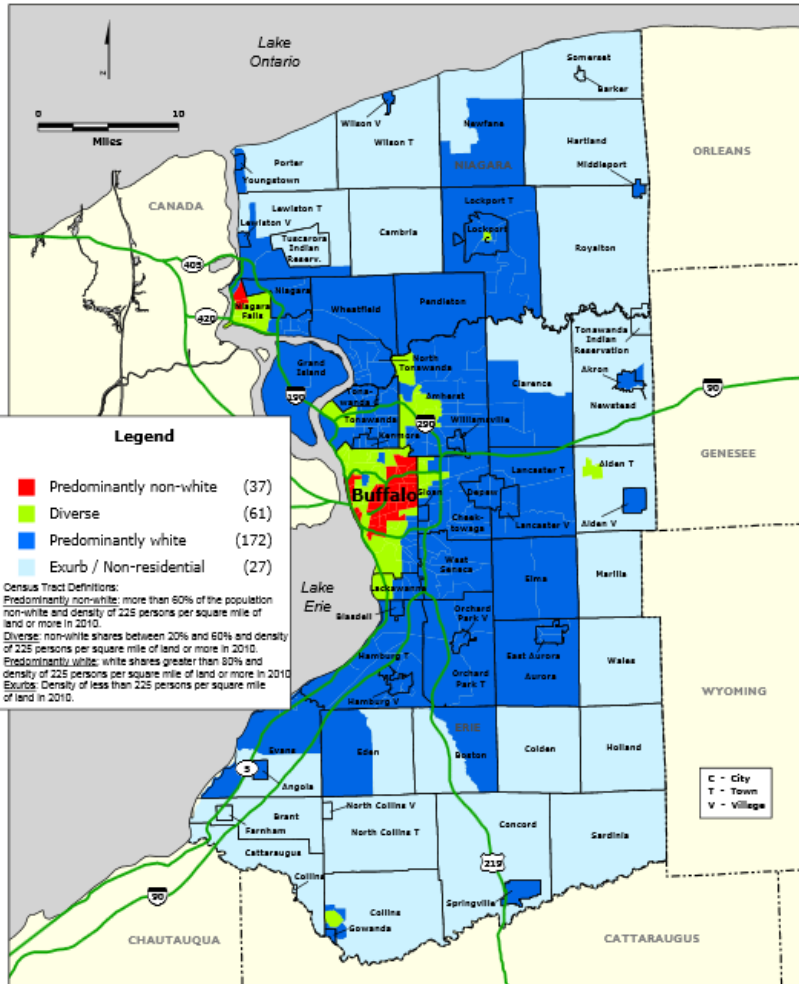


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# Background & Framing

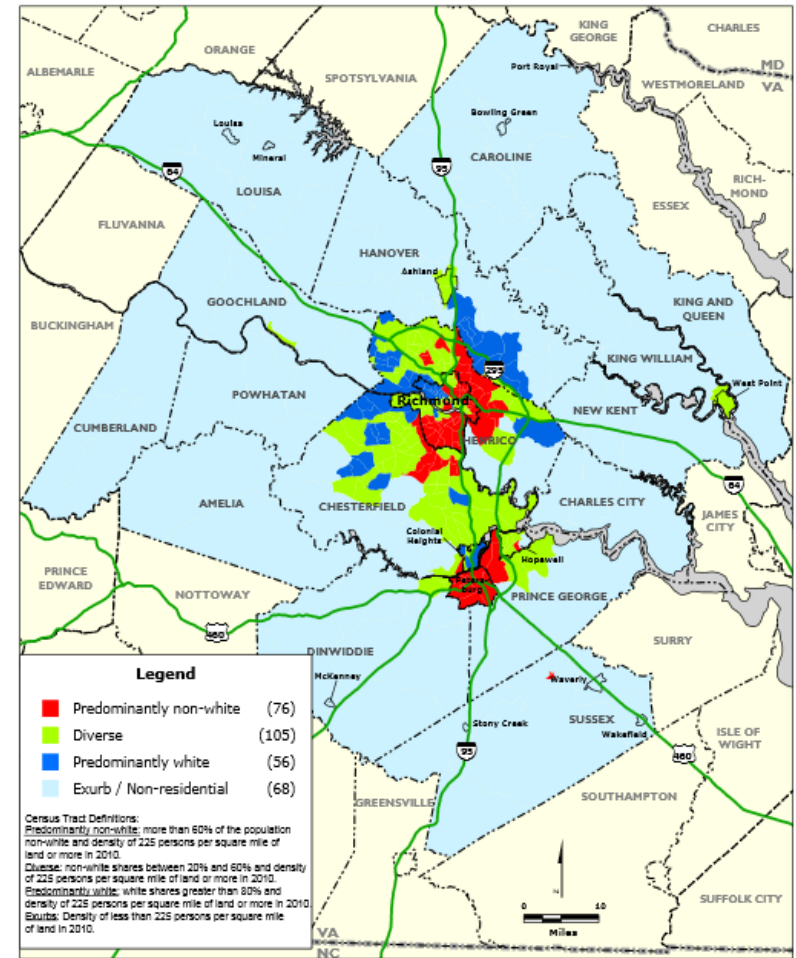
- School integration benefits all students
- Many schools remain “intensely segregated” by race and class (Orfield et al., 2012)
- Correlation between housing and school
- Between-district segregation occurs most often in “highly fragmented metropolitan areas” (Bischoff, 2008; Holme & Finnigan, 2013)

**BUFFALO REGION:  
Community Type  
by Census Tract, 2010**



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**RICHMOND REGION:  
Community Type by Census Tract, 2010**



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Maps: University of Minnesota Law School Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity

# What are Inter-District Transfer Programs?

- Voluntary school choice programs
- Adopted in 13 metropolitan areas since the 1960s
- 8 currently exist
  - Boston, MA; East Palo Alto, CA; Hartford, CT; Milwaukee, WI; Minneapolis, MN; Omaha, NE; Rochester, NY; and St. Louis, MO
- Vary in size and structure
- Implemented for various reasons

# Best Practices

- Selection by lottery and permanent placement
- Explicit diversity goals
- Free and accessible transportation
- Student and parental supports
- Educator professional development
- Regional governance
- Place-based, incentivized, targeted, and “hold harmless” funding (Finnigan & Holme, 2015)

# References

- \* Bischoff, K. (2008). [School district fragmentation and racial residential segregation: How do boundaries matter?](#)
- \* Finnigan, K.S. & Holme, J.J. (2015). [Learning from inter-district integration programs.](#)
- \* Finnigan, K.S. et al. (2014). [Regional educational policy analysis: Rochester, Omaha and Minneapolis' inter-district arrangements.](#)
- \* Holme, J.J., & Finnigan, K.S. (2013). [School diversity, school district fragmentation and metropolitan policy.](#)
- \* Mickelson, R.A. (2015). [School integration and K-12 educational outcomes: A quick synthesis of social science evidence.](#)
- \* Orfield, G., Kucsera, J., & Siegel-Hawley, G. (2012). [E pluribus...separation: Deepening double segregation for more students.](#)
- \* University of Minnesota Law School Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity. (2010). [Buffalo region: Community type by census tract.](#)
- \* University of Minnesota Law School Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity. (2010). [Richmond region: Community type by census tract.](#)
- \* Wells, A.S., et al.(2009). [Boundary crossing for diversity, equity and achievement: Interdistrict school desegregation and educational opportunity.](#)

# Contact Information

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