

# Tennessee

## Opportunity to Learn for Black Students: 53% of that for White Students

### *Inequities in Graduation Rates*

Black Male students in Tennessee graduated at higher rates and White Male students at lower rates in 2007/8 than the national averages for their groups.

The *Benchmark* for graduation rates of Black Male students for states enrolling more than 10,000 Black students is 69% (New Jersey).

Location	Black Males	Graduation Rate 2007/8		GAP	Graduation Rate 2005/6		Change	
		Black Male	White Male		Black Male	White Male	Black Male	White Male
USA	4.2 mil.	47%	78%	31%	47%	75%	0%	3%
Tennessee	121,244	52%	71%	19%	44%	71%	8%	0%

### *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Evidence of Inequities*

NAEP Grade 4 Reading results for Tennessee are average for those for the nation as a whole for White Male, non-Latino, students. Two-thirds of the state's Black Male students read below the Basic level at Grade 4.

Percentages of Black Male and White Male, Non-Latino, Students at Each Achievement Level, Reading, Grade 4, 2009

Race	Jurisdictions	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced
White	USA	30	35	28	8
	Tennessee	31	37	26	6
Black	USA	58	30	11	1
	Tennessee	66	25	8	1

At Grade 8, more than half of the state’s Black Male students read at less than the Basic level and virtually none reach the Advanced level.

Percentages of Black Male and White Male, Non-Latino, Students at Each Achievement Level, Reading, Grade 8, 2009

Race	Jurisdictions	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced
White	USA	21	46	31	2
	Tennessee	23	48	27	2
Black	USA	50	40	9	#
	Tennessee	53	38	9	#

Half of Tennessee’s Black Male students score below the Basic level in Grade 4 Mathematics, more than three times the percentage of the state’s White Male, non-Latino, students.

Percentages of Black Male and White Male, Non-Latino, Students at Each Achievement Level, Mathematics, Grade 4, 2009

Race	Jurisdictions	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced
White	USA	12	39	40	9
	Tennessee	16	46	34	4
Black	USA	36	48	15	1
	Tennessee	50	42	7	1

By Grade 8, 60% of Tennessee’s Black Male students score below the Basic level in Mathematics and one percent reach the Advanced level.

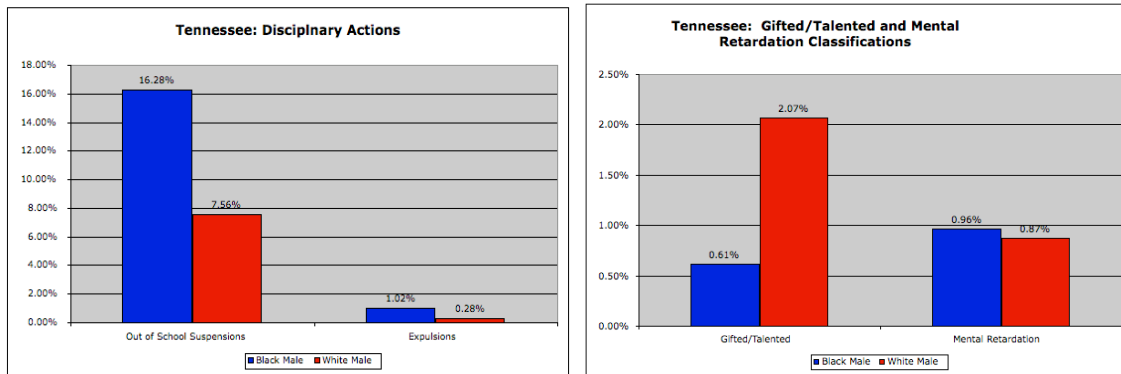
Percentages of Male, White and Black Non-Latino Students At Each Achievement Level, Mathematics, Grade 8, 2009

Race	Jurisdictions	Below Basic	At Basic	At Proficient	At Advanced
White	USA	19	38	32	11
	Tennessee	27	42	25	6
Black	USA	50	37	11	2
	Tennessee	60	29	10	1

The *Benchmark* for Black Male students in Grade 8 Reading is Massachusetts, with 58% of Black Male students scoring at or above Basic.

The *Benchmark* for Grade 8 Mathematics is Massachusetts, with 67% of Black Male students scoring at or above Basic.

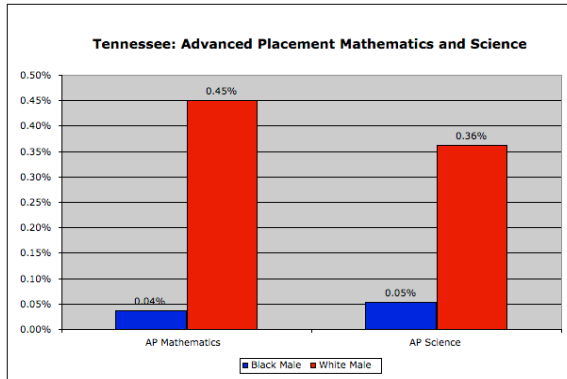
### *Discipline, Special Education, and Advanced Placement Inequities*



The number of out-of-school suspensions given to Black Male students in Tennessee was equivalent to sixteen percent of Tennessee’s male, Black, non-Latino student population. The number of out-of-school suspensions given to White Male students in Tennessee was equivalent to eight percent of the state’s White, male, non-Latino enrollment in the 2006/7 school year, as reported to the Office of Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Education. Nearly four times as many Black Male students in proportion to enrollment were expelled as were White Male students.

Tennessee’s Black Male students were admitted to district Gifted and/or Talented programs at one-third the rate for White Male students. On the other hand, Black Male children were classified by the State of Tennessee as Mentally Retarded only slightly more often than were White Male children, in proportion to enrollments.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gifted/Talented and Mental Retardation statistics for Tennessee in 2006/7 were unusually different from those in the previous report.



More than ten times the percentage of White Male students were allowed to take Advanced Placement Mathematics and seven times the percentage of White Male students were allowed to take Advanced Placement Science classes as Black Male students.

## Memphis

### *Inequities in Graduation Rates*

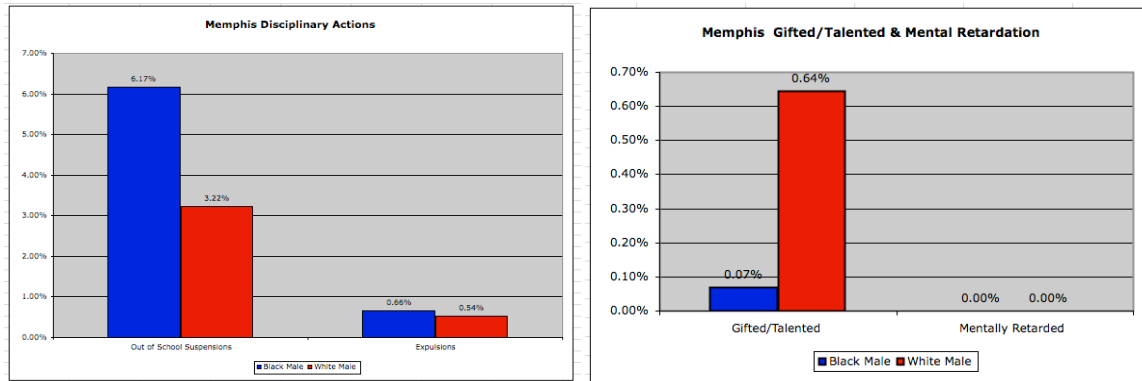
Black Male and White Male students graduated at lower rates in 2007/8 than the national averages for their groups.<sup>2</sup> Therefore the gap in graduation rates is narrower than the national average.

The *Benchmark* for graduation rates of Black Male students for school districts enrolling more than 10,000 Black Male students is 75% (Newark, New Jersey).

Location	Black Males	Graduation Rate 2007/8		GAP	Graduation Rate 2005/6		Change	
		Black Male	White Male		Black Male	White Male	Black Male	White Male
USA	4.2 mil.	47%	78%	31%	47%	75%	0%	3%
Tennessee	121,244	52%	71%	19%	44%	71%	8%	0%
Memphis	17,860	43%	53%	10%	35%	64%	8%	-11%

<sup>2</sup> Graduation rate estimates are therefore less reliable for Memphis than for other districts due to a lack of historical data.

## *Discipline, Special Education, and Advanced Placement Inequities*



The number of out-of-school suspensions given to Black Male students in the Memphis public schools was equivalent to six percent (down from twenty-five percent) of Memphis's male, Black, non-Latino student population and the percentage of out-of-school suspensions given to White Male students in Memphis was equivalent to three percent (down from twelve percent), in the 2006/7 school year, as reported to the Office of Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Education.

Black Male non-Latino students were classified as Gifted/Talented less than a ninth as often as White Male, non-Latino students in the Memphis public schools. No male students were classified as Mentally Retarded. These data are much different from those for the 2005/6 school year.

No Black Male or White students participated in Mathematics and Science Advanced Placement courses in the 2006/7 school year.

## **Nashville**

### *Inequities in Graduation Rates*

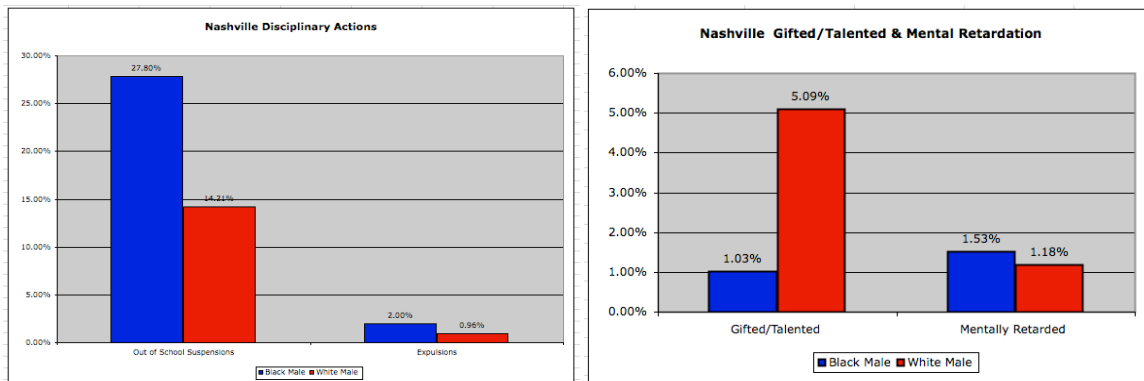
Black Male in Nashville graduated at the national average (but below the state average) rate for the group in 2007/8, while White Male students graduated at below state and national average

rates.<sup>3</sup> The achievement gap is lower than the national average, in large part because of the comparatively low graduation rate for White Male students.

The *Benchmark* for graduation rates of Black Male students for school districts enrolling more than 10,000 Black Male students is 75% (Newark, New Jersey).

Location	Black Males	Graduation Rate 2007/8		GAP	Graduation Rate 2005/6		Change	
		Black Male	White Male		Black Male	White Male	Black Male	White Male
USA	4.2 mil.	47%	78%	31%	47%	75%	0%	3%
Tennessee	121,244	52%	71%	19%	44%	71%	8%	0%
Nashville	50,281	47%	59%	12%	38%	60%	9%	-1%

### *Discipline, Special Education, and Advanced Placement Inequities*



The number of out-of-school suspensions given to Black Male students in the Nashville public schools was equivalent to twenty-eight percent of Nashville’s male, Black, non-Latino student population and the percentage of out-of-school suspensions given to White Male students in Nashville was equivalent to fourteen percent, in the 2006/7 school year, as reported to the Office of Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Education.

<sup>3</sup> Graduation rate estimates are therefore less reliable for Nashville than for other districts due to a lack of historical data.

Black Male non-Latino students were classified as Gifted/Talented a fifth as often as White Male, non-Latino students in the Nashville public schools and classified as Mentally Retarded more often than their White classmates.

Seven times as many White Male students as Black Male students in the Nashville public schools in 2006/7 were allowed to participate in Science Advanced Placement courses, proportionate to enrollment. No Black Male students were allowed to participate in Advanced Placement Mathematics courses.