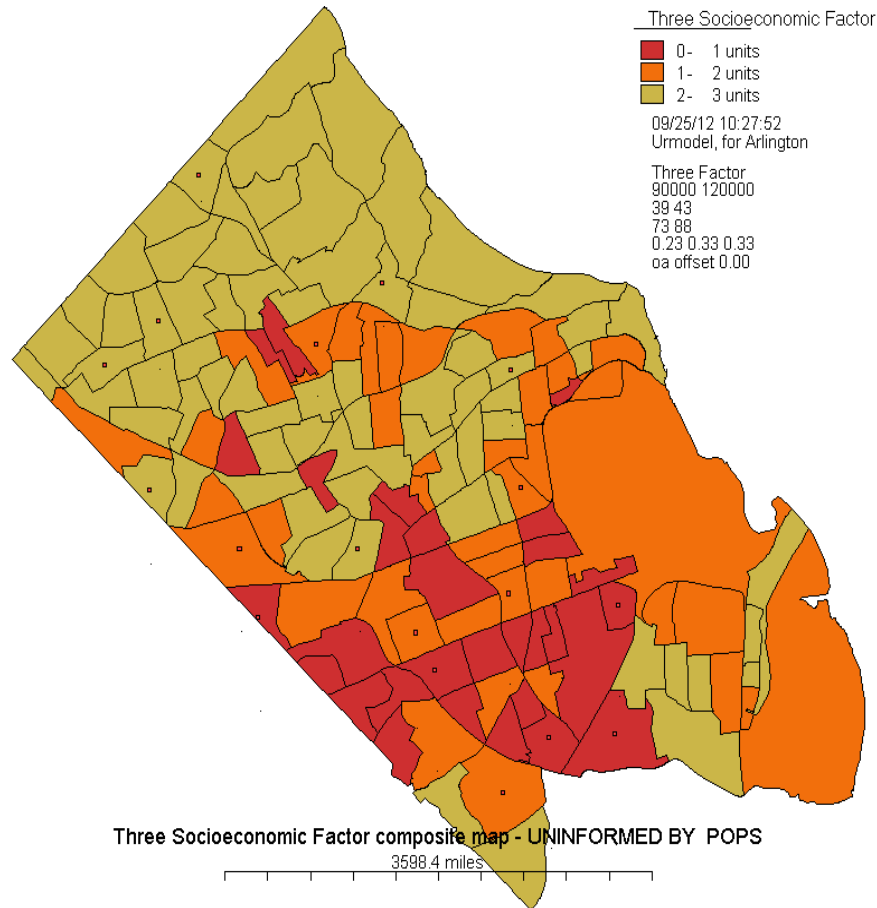


TIME TO INTEGRATE ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Commission presentation
City Council Chambers Manassas VA 10 23 12



Fred Millar Ph.D. Parent activist, educational sociologist
Arlington VA fmillarfoe@gmail.com 707-979-9191

National and Local Developments on Socioeconomic School Integration

- Court decisions
- Social Science Research
- Civil Rights community promotion
- Arlington Public Schools (APS), Loudoun County, etc. are boundary-drawing
- **The key School Board decisions:** allocating high-achieving students, erecting walls around them with exclusive school attendance zones

Supreme Court decisions promote school socioeconomic integration

- Historic: “Separate is never equal”. Segregation holds down student achievement.
- Recent: Education can be seen as a “compelling government interest”
- Justices have made suggestions on how school officials can **socio-economically integrate** schools, using various criteria, including race

Civil Rights Leaders Promoting Socioeconomic Integration

- National Coalition on School Diversity
- Civil Rights Projects at UCLA, Harvard
- Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
- Poverty & Race Research Action Council
- Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice – One Nation Indivisible, Susan Eaton
- Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation: *All Together Now* (2001) and *The Future of School Integration* (2012)

50 Years of Research Consistent on Main Student Achievement Factors

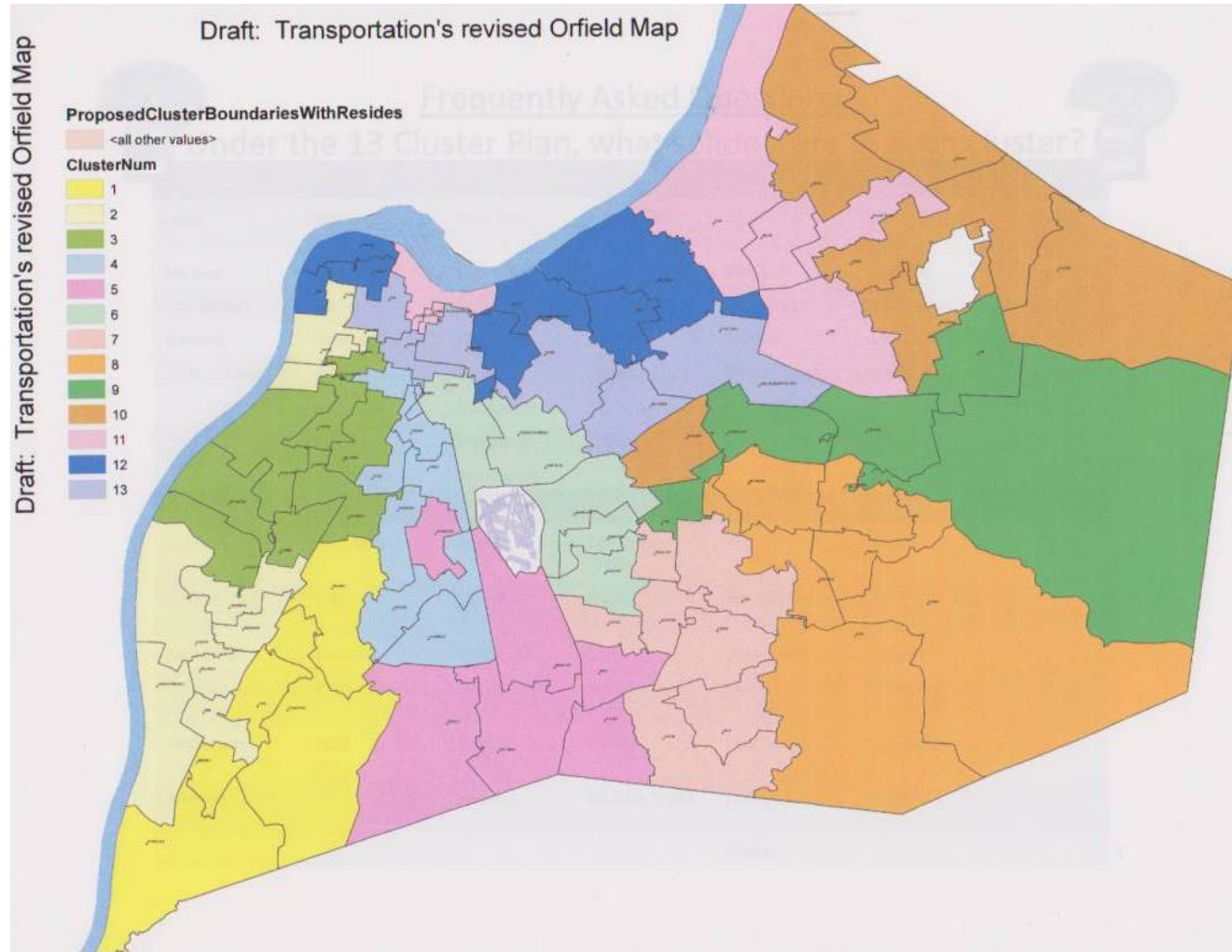
- Family and neighborhood important
- But within-school experience is also critical
- Key is the student's classmates
- Poor child in middle-class school can gain up to 2 years of education
- 22 times more likely to get a high SAT score
- **Integration benefits all students**

40 School Districts Drawing Boundaries to Counter Residential Segregation

- Main mechanism: **clustering** different kinds of neighborhoods into attendance zones to achieve diverse schools, as a “compelling governmental interest”
- Hard-fought efforts include school board takeovers by opponents.
- Wake County NC; Jefferson County KY, Eden Prairie MN; Cambridge MA
- “Controlled Choice” plans provide maximum choice to parents, including neighborhood schools, magnet schools, etc - within guidelines

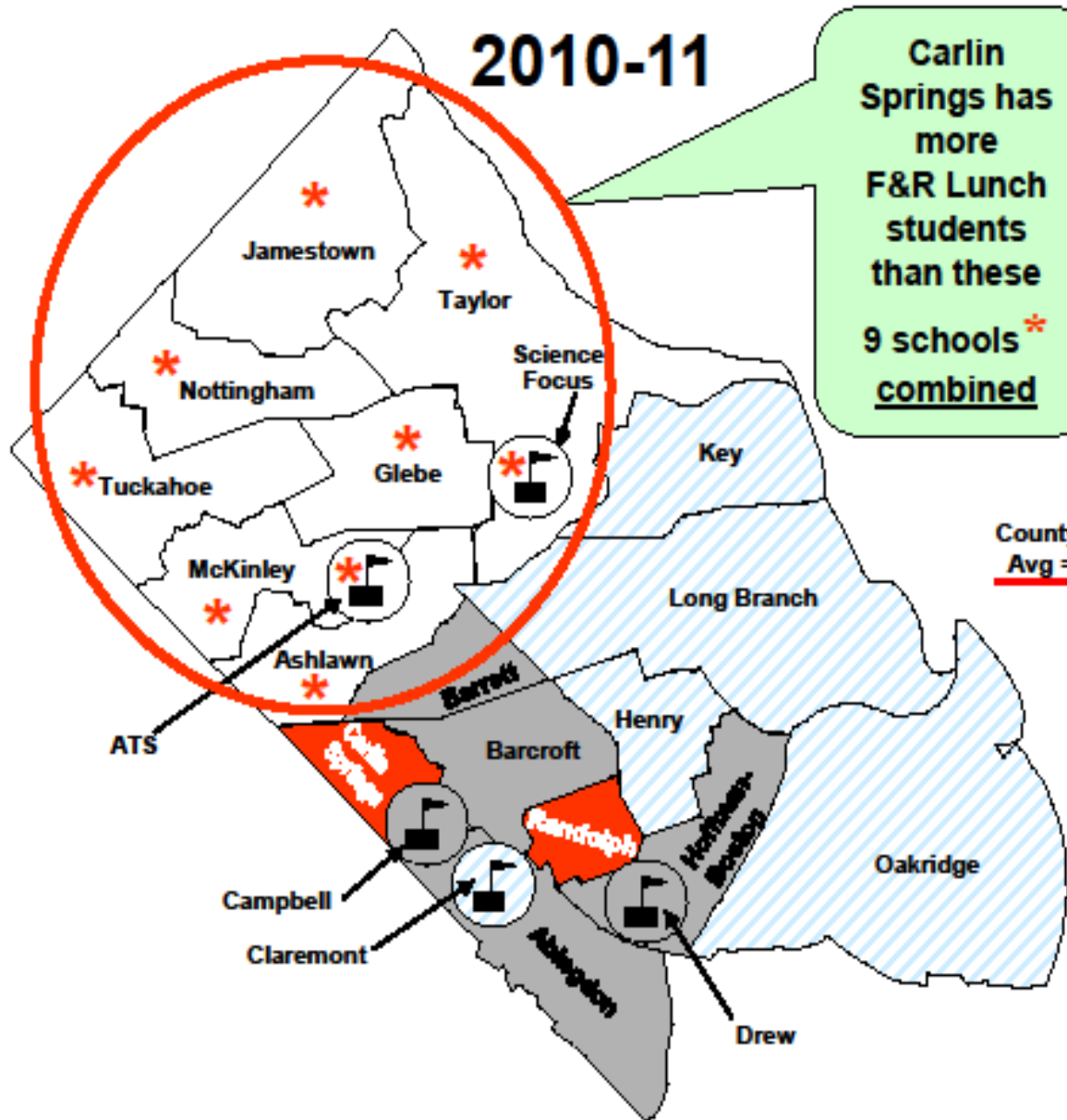
JCPS 13 clusters new map 2011

Louisville Gary Orfield

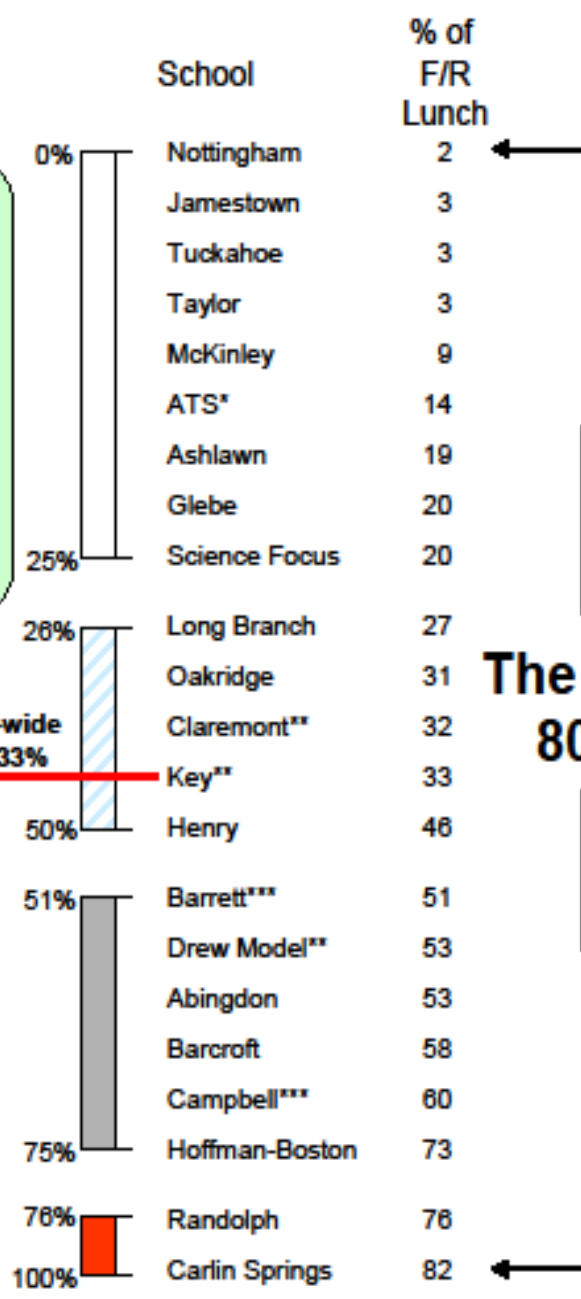


Distribution of Free & Reduced Lunch Students

2010-11



Carlin Springs has more F&R Lunch students than these 9 schools combined

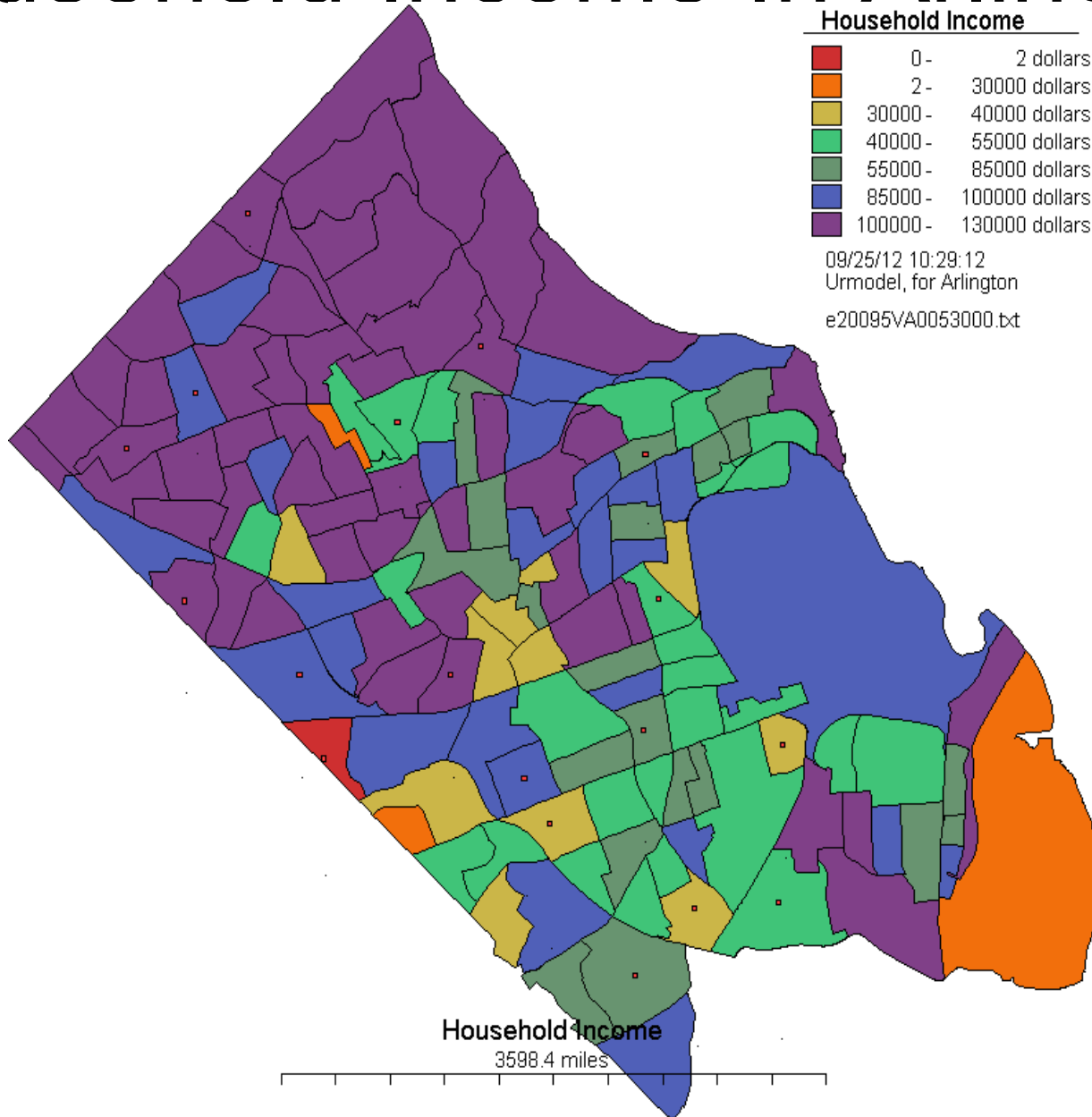


* County-Wide Enrollment
 ** Neighborhood and County-Wide Enrollment
 *** Neighborhood and Cluster Enrollment

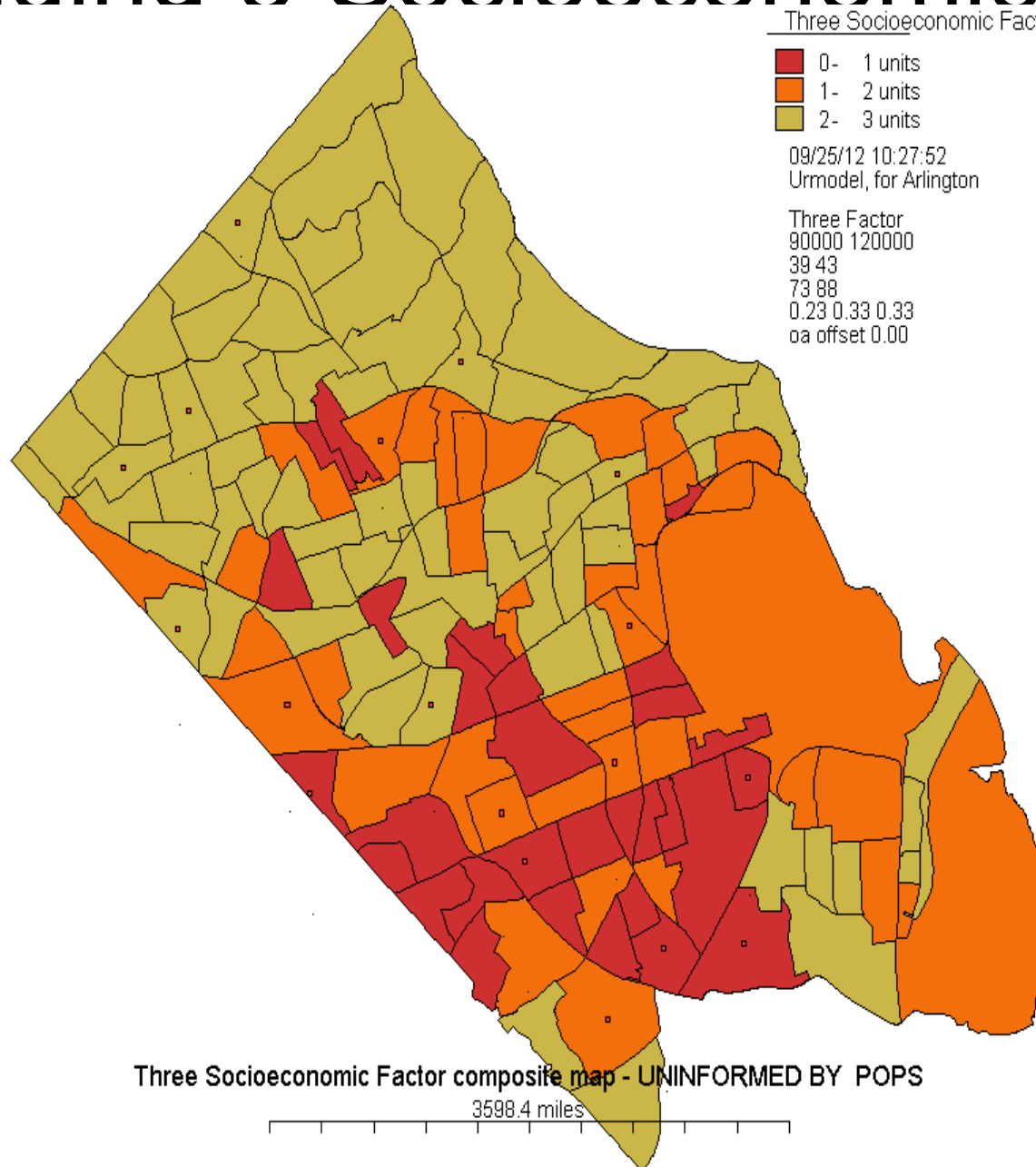
Citizens Showing the Potentials for Socioeconomic Integration

- Some APS citizen activists are now compiling the Census demographic data and beginning to draw new maps to show that Arlington can integrate its schools.
- We need the Board to share with us the student location information [de-identified] that can enable us to draw final versions using sophisticated computer neighborhood-clustering programs

Household Income In Arlington



Blending 3 Socioeconomic Factors



Arlington Black Community Resistance to New School Integration Efforts

- Trauma of the classic Civil Rights period: busing and lack of respect, lack of real access to equal educational opportunities
- “Insulted by notion that blacks need to sit next to whites to learn”
- Keen awareness that integration is not a silver bullet: segregation within schools, grouping etc.
- See Fairfax County Coalition of the Silence: filed 2012 OCR complaint on tracking systems

How the Commission Might Help

- Raise the issue in public, frequently
- Sponsor regional and community forums
- Bring integration leaders from KY, NC, MN
- Investigate a few key VA school divisions re socioeconomic and racial isolation
- Introduce bills to promote state agency assistance to integration efforts, remove obstacles to local action

Housing decisions and policies **are** School decisions and policies

- Stephen Colbert: “What good is it to live in a gated community if your kid goes to school and gets poor all over her?”

Arlington Public Schools : Segregated between schools and within schools

Arlingtonians brag of being the first schools in Virginia to integrate in the 1960s “Massive Resistance” period

- To prevent schools closing, “We are going to have Integration with minimum integration”: APS School Board Chairman declared in Washington Post
- Only black children were bused, so bore the whole burden of integration. Nauck lost its neighborhood school, Charles Drew ES.
- Now 16,000 of 24,000 APS students board school buses twice daily, to segregated schools

The Real Deal: Integrationists in 1992-93 “Futures” movement crushed

- 150 citizens, including 50 teachers, sought to “share the burden” of new Latino immigration
- Many months of heated community meetings: recommendations for Controlled Choice plan
- “Save our Neighborhood Schools” movement arose and crushed the integrationists
- Since then, 20 years of enforced civic silence on the issue of school segregation
- Post puff pieces: APS is “top-notch system”

“North Arlington” and “South Arlington”, Divided by Route 50

- APS schools have for many years been clearly and increasingly segregated, by income and by race.
- The data on Free and Reduced Lunch provides a clear picture of “White Flight”, the isolation of privileged families in the North.
- 2/3 APS students: 16,000 of 24,000 already get on school buses twice a day.

Ways of “Trying to Live with Segregated Schools” in Arlington

- Deploying supplemental programs based on the deficit model
- Deploying additional resources for poor and minority schools [see Schwartz study on Montgomery County MD: \$2000 per student per year in “Red Zone” poor schools]
- Deploying a few county-wide “choice” programs [Spanish Immersion, AP, IB, etc] and “choice” schools



- Rev. King closed his 16 April 1963 letter to "My dear fellow clergymen" from Birmingham jail:
- "If I have said anything in this letter that overstates the truth and indicates an unreasonable impatience, I beg you to forgive me. If I have said anything that understates the truth and indicates my having a patience that allows me to settle for anything less than true brotherhood, I beg God to forgive me."

Erecting the Walls: Drawing School Zone Boundaries

- Boundary-drawing is most important decision by School Boards, their main way of allocating the most precious educational resources they are elected to oversee: a student's classmates, and especially high-achieving students.
- Board members are elected to be the gatekeepers, but are also the wall-builders in their boundary decisions that assign families and their students in biased ways to different educational resources, and thus to different life futures.

APS Board: Boundary Politics

- The APS Board knows there are many US school districts employing various viable alternatives to racially and socioeconomically isolated schools.
- And they know how to draw school boundary lines that can integrate schools, the only APS example being the Spanish Immersion programs at Key and Claremont.
- The current Board has even studied the literature on socioeconomic integration, including a valuable study from our neighbor Montgomery County Public Schools.
- But they have not educated Arlington citizens about this history or the existing alternatives.

Missing an Opportunity for Integration

- APS Board poised to re-affirm APS Policy 30-2.2 and accompanying Framework guidelines, designed to continue and reinforce the assignment of students to segregated schools, to bless the residential segregation in Arlington rather than to remedy its worst impacts for all students.

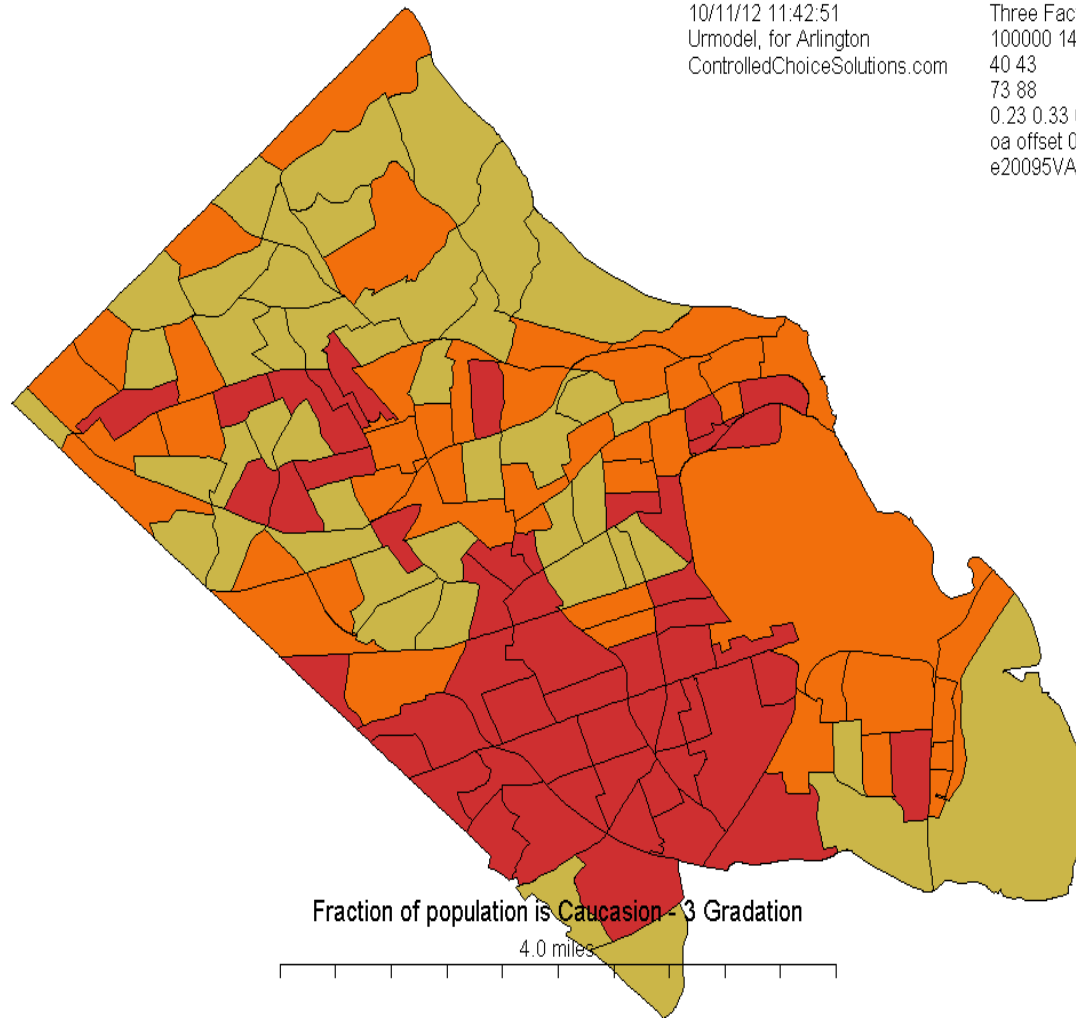
Arlington: Percentage of White Population

Fraction of population is Caucasion - 3 Grade

0-	1	Pop: 5643	46%
1-	2	Pop: 3116	25%
2-	3	Pop: 3510	29%

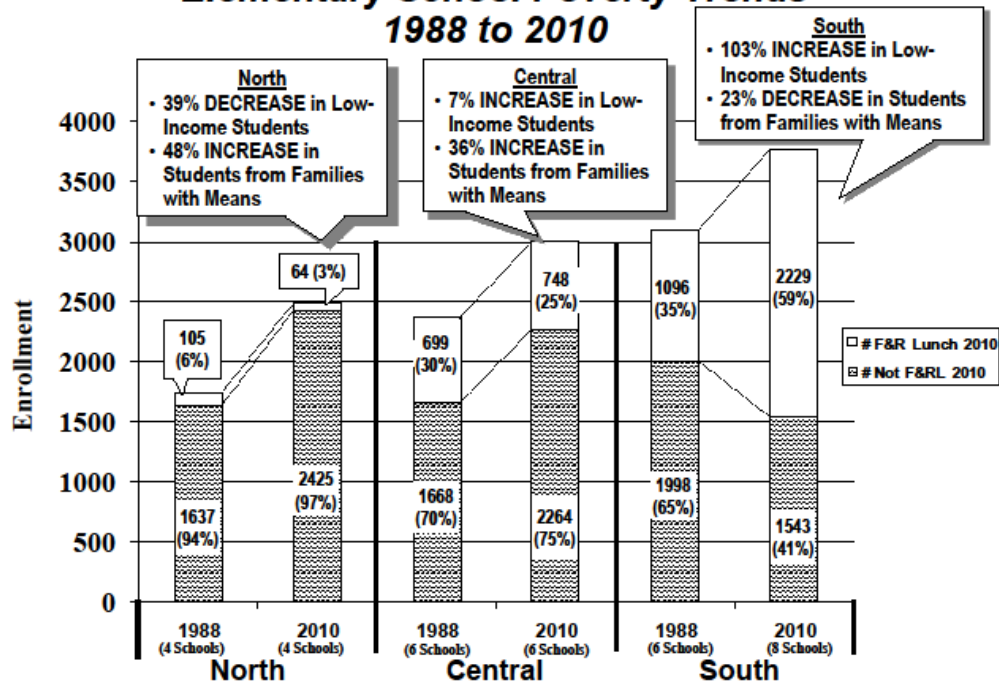
10/11/12 11:42:51
Urmodel, for Arlington
ControlledChoiceSolutions.com

Three Factor
100000 140000
40 43
73 88
0.23 0.33 0.33
oa offset 0.00
e20095VA001200



FRLs in APS

The Uneven Impacts of Change Elementary School Poverty Trends 1988 to 2010



Excludes Data from Drew, Page/ATS, Claremont & Key (2010)
 2010 F&R Lunch family income ceiling = 39% of Area Median Income (\$40,793 for family of 4)
 Source: 1988 Data from APS Report *Schools With Diverse Populations*, May 1989
 2010 Data from APS Website www.apsva.us