

Belmont Presidential Debate Essay

By: Mary Li

Far too many students, especially in underserved communities, lack access to the core elements of a quality education. This includes free, high-quality preschool, high, challenging standards and engaging teaching in a safe and well-resourced school. We all know that an education is crucial to a child's future. Many low-income children in the U.S. are not getting the high-quality education they need. Their schools are not getting the funding they need. Nor are they getting the resources that the wealthier communities get. Why is it that someone's income rate or race or gender affects the type of education they get? This is what is called an educational inequity.

The government should give equal funding to all schools in the US. Many low-income communities do not get the right resources for schools to provide a quality education for their students. Because of this inequity, many low-income students are not likely to reach their full potential. According to a study conducted by The Department of Education, about 45 % of high-poverty schools do not get the same amount of state funding as other typical schools in the district. While some might think that the low-income communities get more funding, the reverse is often true. Now, because the students did not get a high-quality education when younger, they

are not likely to succeed in college. These low-income students also attend college at far lower rates than their peers do.

Many Black low-income communities are not being treated as a wealthier community would. According to UNCF, only 50% of Africans have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness. To compare to Asian Americans, almost 80% and White people, 70%. Just by looking at the difference between these numbers, you can tell that Africans are being treated differently than the “wealthier” races. Another study conducted by UNCF shows that students of color are often put in schools with fewer resources. Schools with 90% or more of colored students spend 733\$ less than schools with 90% or more of white students. Why are the schools with white students spending more than schools of color? This is because they get enough funding that they can spend more on each student to ensure their education. Unlike the white schools, colored children are forced to “deal with what they have”.

Americans are supposed to be given equal chances in life. According to Hechinger Report, the funding gap between the rich and the poor communities grew about 44% over the last decade. In the last 10 years, education inequity has grown more and more. It is not fair for the poor children. They should be getting equal funding as the rich because everybody deserves a chance in life to the best they can do.

Overall, I'd like to say that education inequity is very serious matter and that we should take matter into our own hands. We need change. Children, no matter what gender, race, religion, etc., should be held back of reaching their full potential.