

STILL SEPARATE ■ STILL UNEQUAL: SCHOOL SEGREGATION

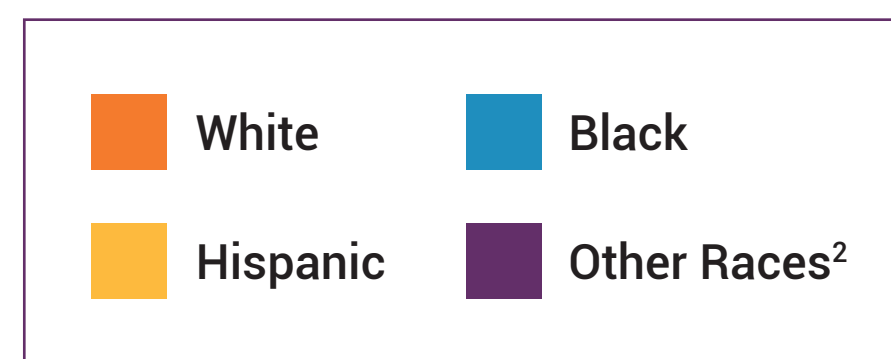
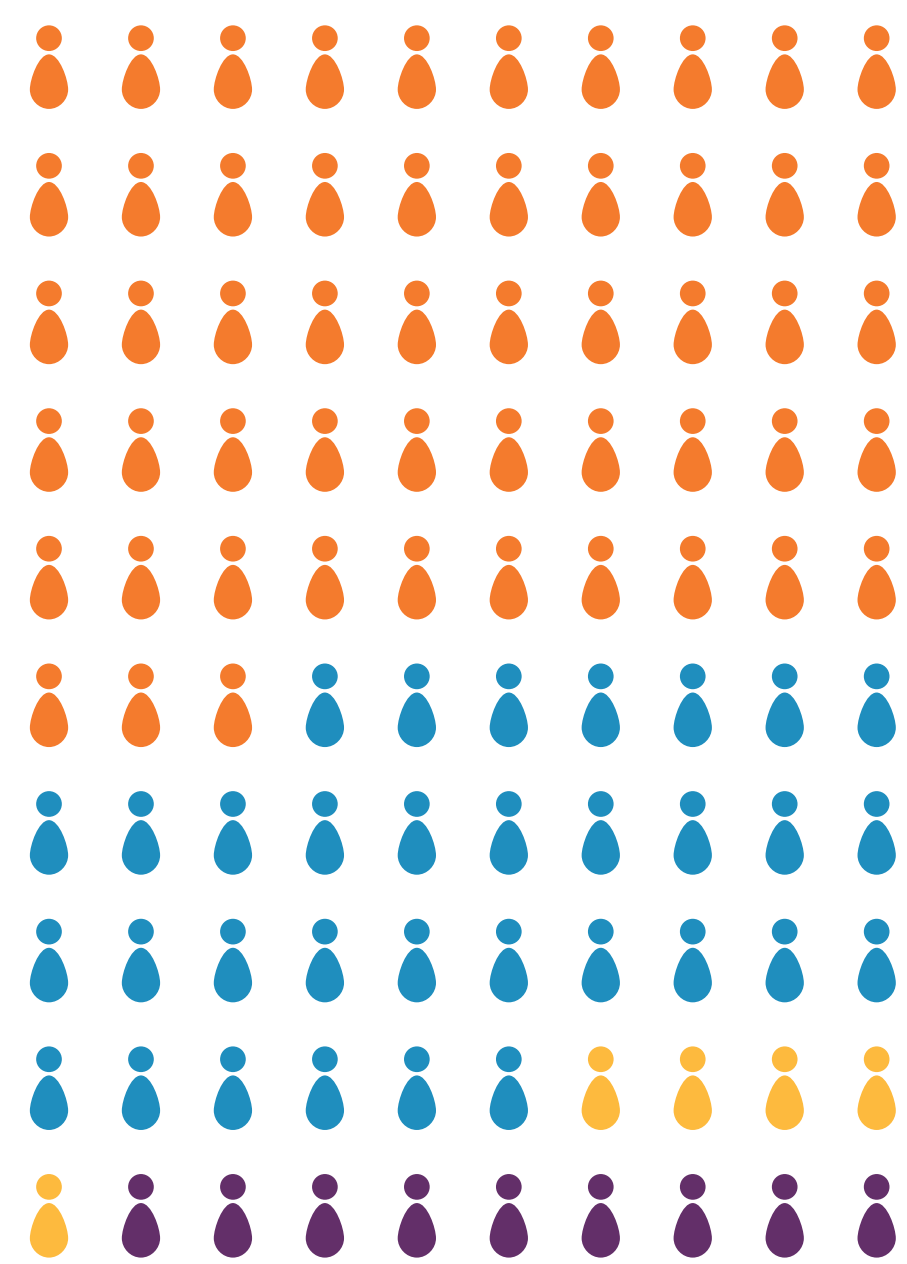
St. Louis is a fairly diverse region. When you consider St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County together, the public school student population is 33% Black, 53% White, and 5% Hispanic.¹

But few individual school districts represent that diversity. In fact, only two are within 10 percentage points of being representative of the population of Black students in the region: Ritenour, with 42% Black students, and Pattonville, which is right at the regional average of 33%.

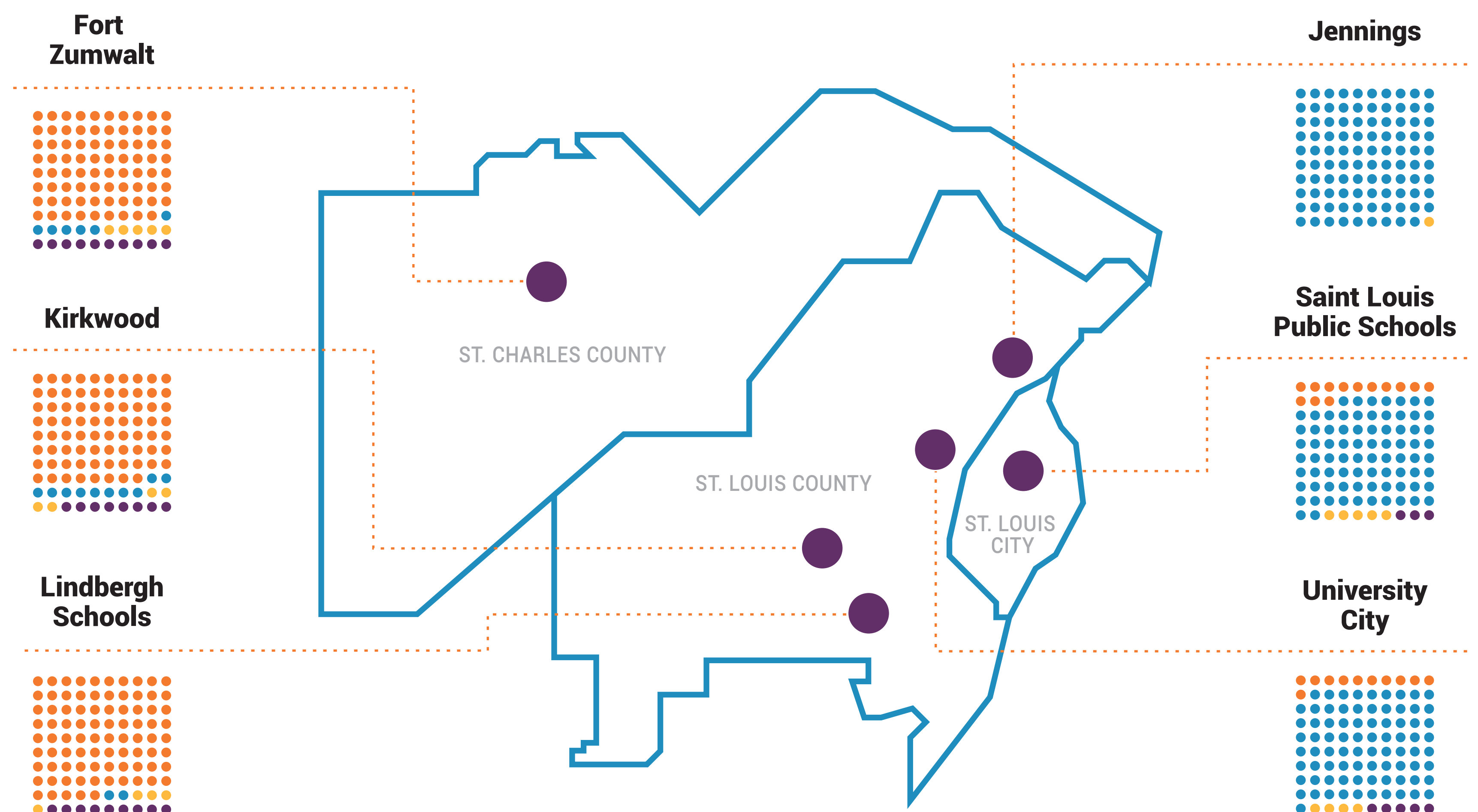
The remaining districts in the region have either less than 21% Black enrollment or more than 79%. That's how you get a region that looks like the graphic on the left in the aggregate, but like the graphics on the right when you zoom in.

One reason this racial segregation is so problematic is that it usually goes hand-in-hand with deep resource segregation. Because property taxes figure so prominently into how we fund education, economic segregation leads to major differences in school quality.

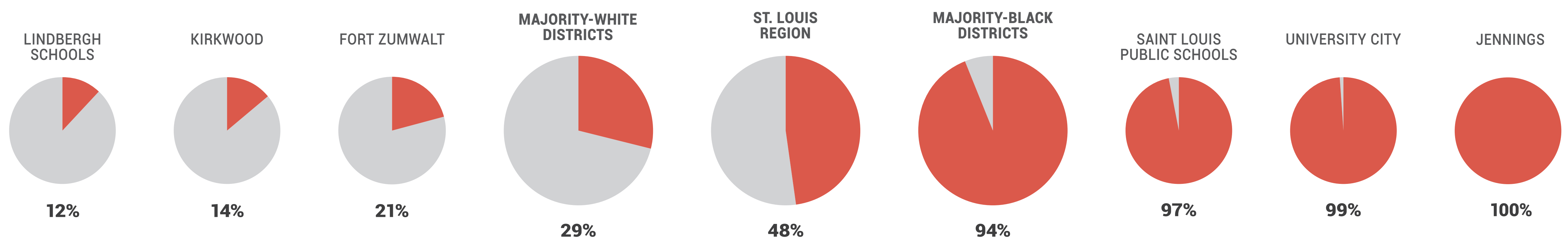
Enrollment by Race per 100 Public School Students, St. Louis Region¹



Enrollment by Race per 100 Students, Select School Districts¹



Students Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch¹



A long history of overtly racist federal, state, and local policies in our housing, transportation, and other systems, followed by “race neutral” policies that did nothing to repair the harm of their predecessors, have led to the segregated landscape we see today. In fact, **St. Louis schools are more segregated now than they were 30 years ago.**

What would it take for our region’s schools to not be so segregated — to be representative of the regional student population? In 2019, **71% of Black or White students in these three counties would have had to move districts** for schools to reflect the underlying population.

This hyper-segregation ensures that some districts will have the resources they need to nurture and educate their students, while others are challenged to stretch every dollar. The have-what-they-need districts are predominantly White. The stretch-every-dollar districts are predominantly Black.

It’s another reason why education in St. Louis is still separate, and still unequal.

Learn more at stillunequal.org.

(1) FORWARD THROUGH FERGUSSON ANALYSIS OF 2018-2019 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION DATA
 (2) OTHER RACES INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICAN, ASIAN, ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND/OR TWO OR MORE RACES.