



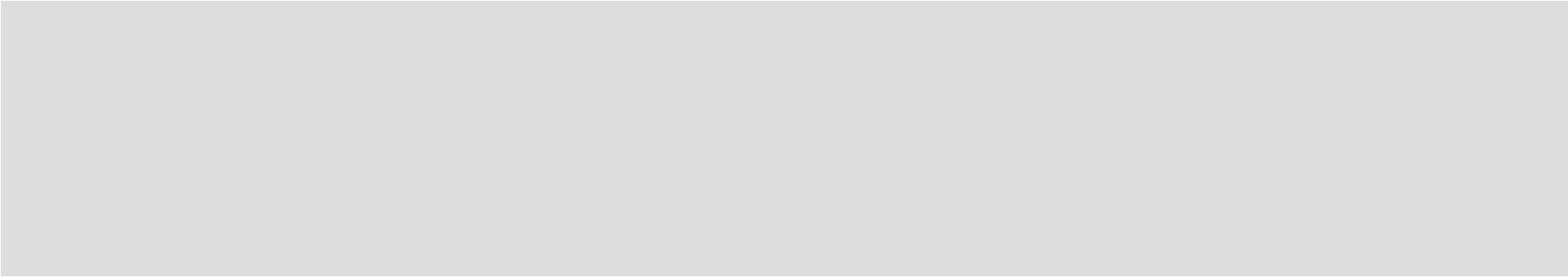
***School Structures, Expectations, and Peer
Dynamics in a Multiracial High School***

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I'm white, so I'm expected ... to be smarter.
...the perception is ... that Black people are
dumber than White people and Hispanics are
not as smart as everyone else. ...

Gabe, high achieving White sophomore

Racial Attitudes Among Whites

TABLE 6. White Americans' Stereotypes

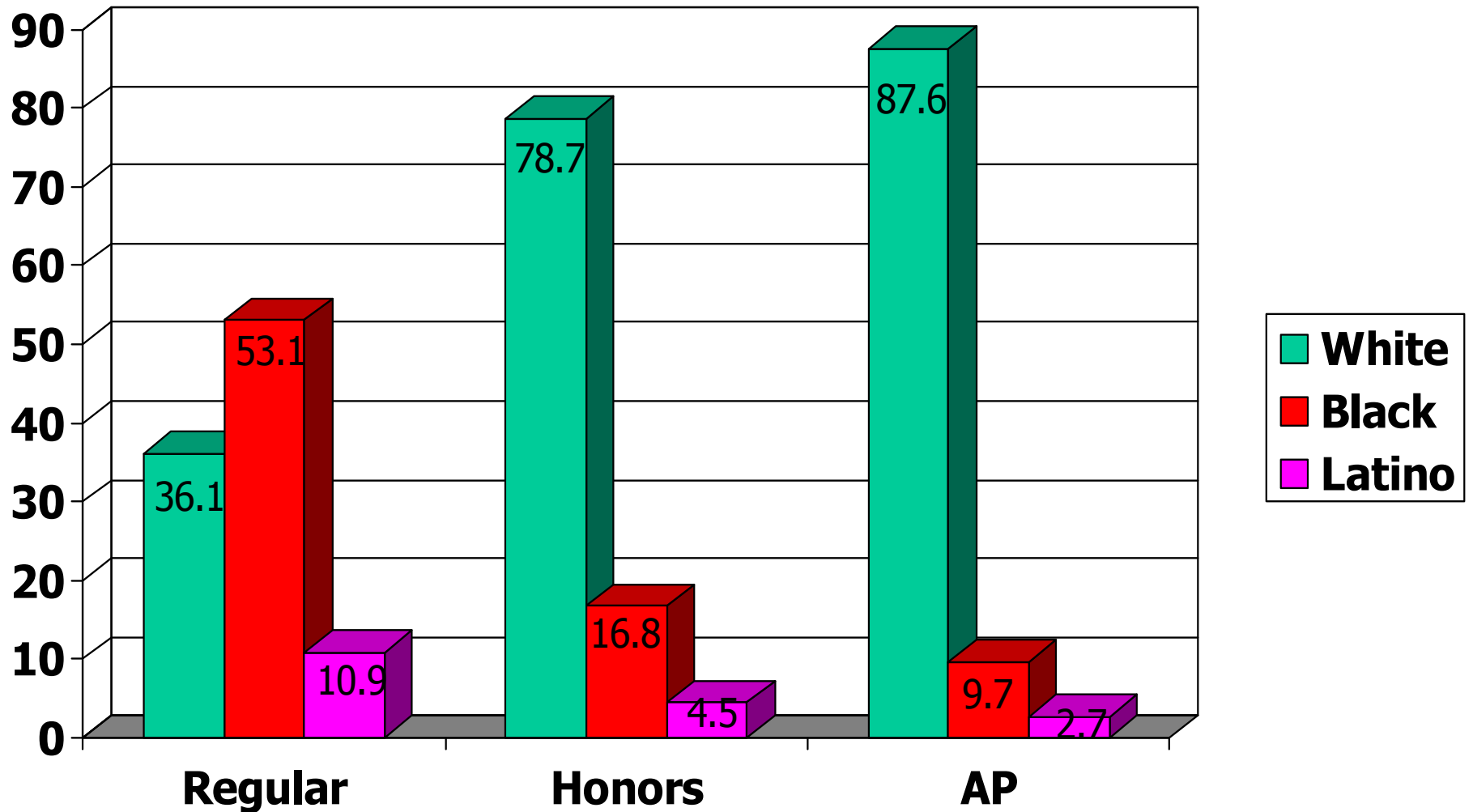
Percentage Agreeing that Most Group Members...				
	BLACKS	WHITES	HISPANICS	ASIANS
ARE UNINTELLIGENT				
Unintelligent	28.8	6.1	29.1	13.2
Neither	45.0	33.3	42.6	38.0
Intelligent	20.0	55.4	18.4	37.3
DK/NA	6.2	5.2	9.8	11.5
ARE LAZY				
Lazy	44.3	4.9	33.5	15.0
Neither	34.0	36.4	33.7	27.7
Hardworking	16.8	54.5	23.9	47.2
DK/NA	4.9	4.2	9.0	10.1
PREFER WELFARE				
Prefer Welfare	56.1	3.7	41.6	16.3
Neither	26.5	21.5	30.5	31.6
Prefer self-support	12.7	70.5	18.3	40.6
DK/NA	4.7	4.3	9.7	11.5
ARE PRONE TO VIOLENCE				
Violence prone	50.5	15.7	38.3	17.2
Neither	28.3	42.3	34.0	41.1
Not violence prone	15.2	36.6	17.8	29.6
DK/NA	5.9	5.5	9.8	12.1

Source: Davis and Smith 1990 as cited in Rubio, Mercedes, and David R. Williams.

Stable Integration: Riverside School Demographics 2003-2004

Riverside, 2003 – 2004				
	Students		Teachers	
White	1,497	<u>48.0%</u>	184	72.9%
Black/ African American	1,288	<u>41.3%</u>	54	21.6%
Hispanic	265	8.5%	10	4.0%
Asian / Pacific Islander	65	2.1%	4	1.6%
Native American	3	0.1%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	3,118	100.0%	252	100.0%
Limited English Proficient (of any race)	50	1.6%	n/a	n/a
Low-income (of any race)	976	31.3%	n/a	n/a

Percentage of Riverview Students Educational Across Tracks by Race (All Subjects)



Connecting Class Level and Race

“The fact is that Riverview is two schools in one. There is the honors white school, and then there’s the other school.”

Julius, high achieving Black junior

I mean if you look at the numbers, I’m betting there are more white kids that are in the **honors classes**, and more black kids that are in **minority classes**.

Richard, high achieving White sophomore

An Example of Acting White in the Popular Discourse

Some African-American students ... have adopted the incredibly stupid tactic of harassing fellow Blacks who have the temerity to take their studies seriously.

Bob Herbert, New York Times, 1995

High Achievers Perceptions of Low Achievers

“Most people assume that the non-honors [students] don’t try at all”

Caitlin, high achieving White sophomore

First of all, **regular classes are just filled with people who just hold you back** ... I've never had a regular class, ...those are the people who don't really care.

Tammy, high achieving Black sophomore

It's About the Parents

Home-raising, parents. ... 'cause I'm sure it doesn't have to do with genetics – ... It's nurture; it's how they're raised.

Richard, high achieving White sophomore

Their parents just don't stress it hard enough ...they don't do what they need to do to get their kids interested in school. ... they [parents] don't care.

Terrell, high achieving Black junior (GPA 3.7)

*Comparison of Education, Income, and “Wealth”
among Black and White Population in Riverside*

Characteristics	Black	White
Percent of Residents Over 25 with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	23.5%	74.4%
Families Below Poverty Level	5.1%	.89%
Median Family Income in 1999 Dollars	\$46,582	\$101,371
Median Home Values in Dollars	\$158,300	\$342,700

Source: US Census Bureau, Summary File 2 (SF 2) and Summary File 4 (SF 4)

Parents' Narratives

White people got time. Black people [work at] 4:30 or 4:00 in the morning, come back home 6:00 ... So by 6:00, what do you have left in your tank as a person? Nothing.... The White people make more money ... And that's why they've got time to follow every little details of what the kids are doing at school.

Expectations and Peer Dynamics

So if you have a really smart Black person, that's when you see the most, "That's weird." In one of my classes, there's one Black kid in the entire class; there's zero Hispanics. It's all just white people. And that's, it's weird.

Gabe, high achieving White sophomore

“There was a teacher who had a minority student come into their honors class and you know he was your stereotypical baggy jeans, big shirt, hat turned sideways, you know, and she said to him, ‘You know I think you belong in my next period, you’re too early’ and assumed that he was a general student. And he’s like ‘No, no my schedule says I belong here.’”

Expectations and Peer Dynamics

Well, there've been times where I've been in classes with white kids, and I tried my best ... When I do, the white girls, they're always going in their own little clique, and look at the Mexicans as if we were dumb or something. It just makes us feel bad.

Maria, high achieving Latina sophomore

Expectations and Peer Dynamics

I just think that kids aren't used to seeing a successful ...black male student. Whenever I do something that's ... just like normal. They're like, "Whoa." ... A lot of times racism is indirect. They won't come out directly and say, 'Whoa. You're black. Black males aren't supposed to do that.' There's like undertones and stuff that you can kind of pick up.

David, high achieving Black sophomore

So what does this all mean?

- We need to be aware of how institutional arrangements shape students' identity and their perceptions of other students.
- We need to pay attention to how cross-race peer dynamics increase performance anxieties among high achieving students of color.
- We need to make sure that teachers understand the implications of their behaviors and how these might exacerbate challenges associated with expectations of students.
- We need to carefully analyze the implications of how teacher are allocated across classes
- We need to make sure that all students have access to high quality instruction, regardless of their education track.