

I am 69 years old, and have a BA and two Masters degrees, one in architecture and one in education. I have never had a teacher of color. I was a teacher in the Portland Public Schools, and I taught in two very different kinds of schools. The population of the first school was pretty homogenous, made up of mostly white, and mostly well cared for children. The PTA at that school was huge, and provided many extra benefits for the students. The second school was diverse, with many first generation immigrant families. Poverty, the foster care system, and the criminal justice system made learning much harder for many of these students. The PTA at this school had very few members. The students of both of these schools would have benefitted tremendously if the faculty of their school had been more diverse.