

## ANCHOR INTRO

The anchor intro is read by the anchor and introduces the story. It is single-spaced and includes pronouncers for any names used. The anchor intro should be the strong start to your story and should have an enticing ending in which the listener/viewer wants to stick around for your story. A correct pronouncer has the syllable with emphasis in all caps.

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REDISTRICTING	TRT: XXXX	SOC
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CRYSTAL KRONER1	TRT :	OC:
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*“There are huge pockets of privileged communities that don't interact with other communities. And they think that's just how it is.”*

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JENNIFER B. AYSCUE1	TRT :	OC:
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*“Schools across the country have been re-segregating”*

ANSLEY ERICKSON1	TRT :	OC:
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*“And so what those little tiny boundaries have historically worked to do is to segregate”*

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AYSCUE2	TRT:	OC:
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*“And that segregation occurs by race, and by poverty, and also by language.”*

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TOMAS MONNAREZ1	TRT :	OC:
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*“Most places just replicate neighborhood segregation on their system.”*

Welcome to another podcast of The Others. I’m Sara Dingmann. Last time we talked about criminalization in Columbia Public Schools District.

Today we will be looking at segregation within school districts and while redrawing school attendance boundaries isn't causing segregation, it's not helping. Disparities between schools and school districts can be seen nationally, but we will be looking at this through the lens of Columbia, Missouri. We start in Blue Ridge Elementary, where according to a report by Columbia Public Schools the percentage of students of color is 30 percentage points higher than the average for the entire school district.

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SFX: Transition

TRT :01

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Briana Hardin is a CPS parent who felt her daughter, Diana-Serenity, was not being exposed to enough possibilities while she attended Blue Ridge

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BRIANA HARDIN1

TRT :

OC:

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*"Let's say you're stuck in a box. And all you know is this box. And you don't have anybody else to say, hey, actually, I've been outside of this box. And I've been here and there. And there's all kinds of other boxes and places. And this is not the only box that there is. Then you just think that that's all there is and you stay there forever. And by that I mean low income and not successful. Because that's all you've done. All you see. And that's all you know, then that's all there is."*

Each time the school district redraws the attendance boundaries they are given the opportunity to address the racial and socioeconomic inequality in their schools. But each time, it doesn't seem to be addressed. Columbia Public Schools approved new school attendance boundaries for next school year secondary schools. A new middle school is being added to address overcrowding.

Community relations director for Columbia Public Schools Michelle Baumstark

explained the complexity of redrawing attendance boundaries. A process that the school district goes through frequently to address overcrowding at schools.

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MICHELLE BAUMSTARK1

TRT:

OC

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*“Attendance area changes is a very emotional process for our community and for our parents and for our students. And we know that we have to make the change, it absolutely has to happen. And we try to do it in a way that is going to be least disruptive as possible.”*

To be least disruptive, the school district has focused on allowing students to attend the same high school for all four years and lowering travel times to a school.

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BAUMSTARK2

TRT :

OC:

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*“In Columbia, our philosophy is really about neighborhood schools. And so we want students to be able to attend school at a school building that's close to where they live.”*

Urban Institute research associate Tomas Monarrez explained how philosophies like the one Baumstark mentioned continue segregation.

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MONARREZ2

TRT :

OC:

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*“Specifically, I sort of thought about, you know, the tradeoff that these boards face in terms of, you know, assigning, assigning kids to schools that are nearby, versus assigning kids to schools that are integrated. The reason there's a tradeoff between going to a school that's nearby and going to a school that's integrated, is the fact that underlying all of this, there's a lot of neighborhood and residential segregation, such that if you were to go to your nearest school, you'd probably be going to a segregated school.”*

The result of this segregation is that inequity where schools are not given extra

resources to support needier students. We talked with EdBuild Director of Policy Zahava Stadler about how students of lower economic status need more support at school.

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ZAHAVA STADLER

TRT

OC:

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*“And when a school is serving students that come from upper income families, they simply don't need to provide as much at the school level... There are lots of challenges that you might have as a low-income students. And that means that the onus is on the school to help them succeed academically, and that's something that's going to cost more because that student has resource intensive needs.”*

Lynn Hagen is an English teacher at Battle High School. The high school that has the highest proportion of students of color and students who receive free or reduced lunch. She sees that the school district is not working to address the segregation in the school district.

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LYNN HAGEN1

TRT:

OC

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*“And then they'll make decisions like we all need to have block classes. So it's equal across three buildings where we all need laptops, so that is equal across three buildings, then I don't understand why we're not having equal percentages of free and reduced lunch, and I know they'll be, they'll tell us that it's about- it's about busing, and it's about you know, all these other reasons. But ultimately, the humans in your building are pretty important.”*

The school district has been focusing more on equality, but teachers at Battle feel they need more equity. Something they thought the school district would provide when Battle first opened.

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HAGEN2

TRT :

OC:

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*“And I think back then teachers were pretty clear that battle was going to get resources that they needed for the population that we were going to have. And I feel like a lot of people think that that has not happened.”*

New attendance boundaries for secondary schools will go into effect for next fall. Yet,

CPS will not be addressing the racial and socioeconomic disparities in the school district. Battle High School will continue to have the highest proportion of students on free or reduced lunch out of all the high schools in Columbia.

But, on the national level the segregation that is occurring between school districts is worse.

North Carolina State University Educational evaluation and policy analysis at Jen Ayscue explained the national trend towards more segregation between school districts.

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AYSCUE3

TRT :

OC:

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*“So, we have analyzed segregation trends across the country, and over time, over the last several decades, and found that the peak of desegregation for black students was in the late 1980s.”*

This trend of re-segregating on a national level has largely been a result of the creation of majority white school districts.

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AYSCUE4

TRT :

OC:

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*“Another thing that we're seeing is some places, school districts are succeeding, are sort of splintering off from the larger school district to create, kind of these enclave districts, essentially what we refer to as the white flight.”*

These succeeding school districts tend to be whiter and wealthier. When they leave their previous school district, they create large funding disparities between the new district and the remainder of the previous complete public school district.

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STADLER2

TRT:

OC:

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With the small amount of funding for school districts with a high percentage of non-white students, there is often a lack of resources. This can lead to unwelcoming environments that, in turn, can cause students to act out.

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HARDIN2

TRT :

OC:

*“It sounded like prison. It sounded like every day, like everything's about correction fixing. Like there's always an issue that has to be fixed. There's always a problem. Everybody's in trouble all the time. Yeah, it definitely sounded like prison.”*

The Others is a podcast about the underlying message of the education system: be like us, or get out. Over the course of this series we will continue to bring in experts and real-life examples of what othering looks like and the tactics used to execute it. Watch or Listen for our next episode on KBIA.org.