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# Research exercise: Syntheses of Research on Gender Segregation in Schools

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# Syntheses of Research on Gender Segregation in Schools

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## Why Single-Sex Education is Beneficial for Students

- The mental and emotional differences between males and females are a reason why single-sex education is so beneficial to each gender.
- Different levels in hormones such as estrogen and testosterone explain why males and females learn and interact differently.
- Varying numbers of language processing centers in different areas of the brain cause males and females to learn to speak, read, and write at different rates.
- Because of the emotional differences between males and females, single-sex education allows students to develop on a more personal level and gain more self-confidence than a mixed-gender education.

## The Pros and Cons: Single Sex Education

- Both girls and boys received higher levels of competence in math and had more positive attitudes than those in co-educational. The study was reevaluated and found that the success of the implementation was overstated.
- Some studies show that girls have academic improvement, but there was no clear consensus of success.
- By fourth grade genders start to have their own cultures.
- The study found that boys in single-sex classrooms created more mutual friendships than those in co-educational. Girls showed no improvement.
- There was fewer discipline referrals both girls and boys in single-sex classes.
- Some boys have shown an increase in the amount of overt and relational aggression
- After switching to a single-sex school, 70% of teachers wanted to return to teaching in a co-educational school.

## Co-Ed vs. Single Sex Education

- Achievement Levels: Research shows that single sex schools showed improvement in some areas when compared to co-ed schools, but there was no significant increase in achievement levels in single sex classrooms.
- Stereotypes: In single sex schools, many stereotypes can be associated with them. These include terms such as “gay” “stupid” and “preppie.”
- Student Behavior: There is a significant difference in the behavior of students attending a single sex school. Students can focus on their learning in these situations instead of the social aspect of schools.



## Benefits of an All-Girls Education

- When put into small groups in a classroom setting, girls tend to communicate better with each other than if they were put in a group of boys and girls.
- Girls are able to pick up visual lessons more quickly than their male classmates because the occipital lobe develops more rapidly in the brains of women than in men.
- The majority of boys prefer a classroom that is loud and energetic, while girls often prefer a much quieter classroom.
- Students who attended single-sex schools had significantly higher levels of self-esteem than those students who attended co-ed schools.
- Girls in single-sex schools reported that they had a higher level of support from their teachers and higher levels of confidence than their coed peers.