

Research on Single Gender Environments

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Academic Success

- Single gender classrooms- encourage interest in subjects that are traditionally for the opposite gender.
- Teachers are able to better prepare lessons when adapting to one gender, so that the students can learn more effectively.
- Increased motivation to learn.
- Closing the academic gap between minorities.
- Teacher motivation

Elimination of Distraction

- In the co-ed schools- the prominence of different learning styles can be distracting to some students.
- Boys (who tend to be loud and outspoken in the classroom) distract the girls (more timid during the lesson).
- “Both boys and girls described that they found the single sex classroom less distracting without the other sex present, resulting in a greater ability to focus (S. Blakesley).”

Social-Emotional Environmental Benefits

- For girls- higher self-esteem, decreased fear of harassment, comfort asking questions/ raising their hand, and engaging in “risk taking” behavior because of the safe environment.
- For boys- stronger connections with friends, more strict and supportive environment for boys with behavioral problems, and an increase in engagement.
- Students feel less judged by peers in the classroom and perceive their environment as safer: socially, emotionally, and physically.

Continuing Questions

- At what age would it be most successful to separate students by gender?
- Would public schools have to make the switch to single gender classrooms as well to provide equal opportunity for all students to succeed?
- How would states monitor the academic quality of schools to keep equality between male and female schools?
- Is there a possibility of co-educational schools and single gender classrooms?
- Do single gender classrooms hinder social development that comes from interaction with the opposite sex?
- Research cannot be completely relied upon.

