

HOUSING ACCESS IS THE MISSING LINK TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

on Long Island, New York

\$610,320

**30
Families**

**75
Students**

A District-Level Analysis of Enrollment, Housing Costs, and Opportunity Gaps
across Long Island, New York's Highest-Performing School Districts.

Across Long Island's top-ranked public school districts, students of color—particularly Black students—remain dramatically underrepresented. This disparity is not driven by academic readiness or family ambition. It is driven by housing costs that far exceed the support available to families who qualify for assistance.

Despite representing **13.5% of students statewide**, Black or African American students are significantly underrepresented across Long Island's top-ranked school districts. This disparity is not driven by academic readiness or family ambition, but by housing costs that far exceed the support available to families who qualify for assistance.

This report examines ten of Long Island's highest-performing school districts and demonstrates how targeted philanthropic investment in housing access can unlock educational opportunity at scale.

An investment of \$610,320 provides:

- **30 families** access to stable housing in high-opportunity districts
- **75 students of color** entry into top-performing public schools
- **Measurable reductions in** district-level equity gaps
- Stronger, **more inclusive communities** across Long Island

This analysis is designed to support grantmakers, foundations, and partners seeking data-driven, outcomes-oriented approaches to educational equity.

High-Performing School Districts Exclude Students of Color at Scale on Long Island

Across Long Island’s highest-ranked public school districts, Black or African American students remain significantly underrepresented relative to the statewide average of 13.5%.

Despite Long Island’s strong academic outcomes overall, enrollment patterns reveal persistent inequities in access to the districts most closely associated with educational opportunity.

Black Student Enrollment in Long Island’s Top-Ranked Districts

School District	% Black or African American Students	Equity Gap vs. State Average
Bellmore–Merrick	2.9%	–78.5%
East Williston	1.0%	–92.6%
Great Neck	0.9%	–93.3%
Half Hollow Hills	12.3%	–8.9%
Herricks	0.7%	–94.8%
Hewlett–Woodmere	9.4%	–30.4%
Jericho	2.1%	–84.4%
Manhasset	3.0%	–77.8%
Roslyn	3.1%	–77.0%
Syosset	0.5%	–96.3%

Why This Matters

In nearly every district analyzed, underrepresentation reflects structural barriers rather than academic readiness. Housing affordability remains the primary determinant of who can live in—and attend school within—these communities.

Data Notes

- District rankings are based on 2025–2026 data from U.S. News & World Report and Niche.com.
- Enrollment data sourced from the New York State Education Department, academic year ending June 2026.
- Equity Gap reflects the difference between district-level Black or African American student enrollment and the statewide average.

Housing Costs Are the Primary Barrier to Educational Access on Long Island

Families receiving housing assistance face market rents that consistently exceed allowable support levels. Even modest monthly shortfalls make long-term residency in Long Island’s highest-performing districts unattainable.

Average Monthly Housing Costs in Long Island’s Top-Ranked Districts

School District	Market Rent	Housing Assistance	Monthly Housing Gap
Bellmore–Merrick	4,643	3,680	–963
East Williston	6,410	3,680	–2,730
Great Neck	5,127	3,680	–1,447
Half Hollow Hills	4,427	3,680	–747
Herricks	5,227	3,680	–1,547
Hewlett–Woodmere	4,260	3,680	–580
Jericho	5,160	3,680	–1,480
Manhasset	5,727	3,680	–2,047
Roslyn	7,480	3,680	–3,800
Syosset	5,293	3,680	–1,613

Why This Matters

Monthly housing gaps ranging from **\$580 to \$3,800** prevent families from accessing high-performing districts—even when they qualify for assistance. Without targeted support, housing costs remain the decisive barrier to educational opportunity.

Data Notes

- Market rents reflect average monthly costs for three-bedroom homes, inclusive of utilities.
- Housing assistance reflects combined Housing Choice Voucher payments and utility allowances.
- Sources include Zillow, Realtor.com, Redfin, RentCafe, Apartments.com, local MLS listings, and Public Housing Authority schedules.

Targeted Housing Support Unlocks Educational Opportunity on Long Island

The housing gaps identified in this analysis are precise, predictable, and solvable. By bridging the difference between market rents and existing housing assistance, A Welcome Home Inc enables families to access communities tied to Long Island's highest-performing public schools.

This approach complements existing public programs by addressing the final affordability barrier that determines where families can live.

Funding Impact By District

School District	Annual Donor Support	Cost Per Student	Equity Gap Reduction
Bellmore–Merrick	34,680	4,624	0.1%
East Williston	98,280	13,104	0.5%
Great Neck	52,080	6,944	0.1%
Half Hollow Hills	26,880	3,584	0.1%
Herricks	55,680	7,424	0.2%
Hewlett–Woodmere	20,880	2,784	0.3%
Jericho	53,280	7,104	0.2%
Manhasset	73,680	9,824	0.2%
Roslyn	136,800	18,240	0.2%
Syosset	58,080	7,744	0.1%

Why This Approach Works

This model produces measurable results with limited, targeted investment:

- Small, targeted investments generate measurable district-level change
- Per-student costs remain modest relative to educational outcomes
- Funding scales predictably across communities

Rather than diffusing resources broadly, this approach concentrates capital where it has the greatest leverage—at the intersection of housing access and educational opportunity.

What This Investment Makes Possible

Educational inequity in Long Island's highest-performing school districts is not a function of academic readiness, but of housing access.

Targeted philanthropic investment can unlock opportunity quickly and measurably.

Investment Summary

\$610,320

Provides stable housing for **30 families** across Long Island's highest-ranked school districts

75 students of color

Gain access to top-performing public schools at an average cost of **\$8,138 per student**

Measurable impact

A **4% increase in student enrollment** reduces district-level equity gaps by approximately **1.8%**

Stronger communities

Families integrate into districts with demonstrated academic excellence and long-term opportunity

Why This Matters Now

Long Island's educational landscape is already defined by excellence. The challenge is ensuring that excellence is accessible. By addressing housing as the final barrier, philanthropic capital can produce durable, measurable change without waiting for systemic reform.

A Clear, Actionable Opportunity for Philanthropic Partnership

A Welcome Home Inc is seeking **\$610,320** to fully fund this initiative in ten of Long Island's highest-performing school districts.

This investment will:

- Secure **three homes per district**
- Serve **30 families and 75 students**
- Produce **measurable, district-level reductions in opportunity gaps** within one academic year

Funding may be structured as:

- A single grant
- A pooled foundation partnership
- District- or region-specific sponsorship

Why A Welcome Home Inc

A Welcome Home Inc specializes in bridging the gap between housing assistance and market realities in high-opportunity communities. Our work focuses on precision, accountability, and measurable outcomes—ensuring that philanthropic capital translates directly into access and opportunity.

We work in coordination with public housing authorities, school districts, and local partners to ensure families are placed successfully and supported sustainably.


Next Steps

Grantmakers interested in supporting this initiative or exploring partnership opportunities are invited to connect with us directly.

A Welcome Home Inc

 awhinc.org

 Westport, Connecticut

 +1 (203) 665-8277

 info@awhinc.org

Methodology and Data Sources

This report draws on publicly available data and market research to assess enrollment patterns, housing affordability, and opportunity gaps across Long Island's highest-performing school districts.

District Selection

- Top ten districts based on 2025–2026 rankings from U.S. News & World Report and Niche.com

Enrollment Data

- Student demographic data sourced from the New York State Education Department (academic year ending June 2026)
- Statewide Black or African American student enrollment average: 13.5%

Housing Costs

- Market rents reflect average monthly costs for three-bedroom homes, inclusive of utilities
- Sources include Zillow, Realtor.com, Redfin, RentCafe, Apartments.com, and local MLS listings

Housing Assistance

- Assistance levels reflect combined Housing Choice Voucher payments and utility allowances as determined by local Public Housing Authorities

Assumptions

- Average household size: 2.5 students
- Three homes funded per district
- All figures rounded to the nearest dollar

Disclaimer

This report is for informational purposes only. While data is believed to be accurate, A Welcome Home Inc makes no warranties regarding completeness or future outcomes. Figures are subject to change based on market conditions.