



# Frequently Asked Questions About Single-sex Education

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## What is single-sex education?

Single-Sex education is the separation of students based on their gender into separate classes (RMC, Research Corporation, 2002). There are two different types of single-sex education. These types are classes or school wide. All-girls school or an all-girls PE classes are examples of the two variations. Single-sex classes are often in public school but a single-sex public school is very rare.

## What is the history of single-sex education?

Single Sex Education started in the 1980's in the United States. It was a possible solution for some problems that were being found most commonly in inner state schools. In the 1990's Single-Sex education began to run into some critics who claimed it to be Unconstitutional. After the revision of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001 Single Sex education started to become more of a trend (RMC, Research Corporation, 2002). Single-sex education then became a possible solution for finding gender equity. Schools started to separate based on gender because of the belief that boys and girls should be taught differently (Lewin, 2011).

## How does single-sex education change the educational setting?

It changes education because it teaches by using the most common learning style for that gender. A boy's classroom will be more hands on and may consist of throwing a ball around. Classrooms also adapt more to being gender specific. Temperature, lighting, decoration Curriculum is more focused around gender as well are all examples of the classroom climate changing (National Association of Single-sex Public Education [NASSPE], n.d). Curriculum is also more aimed for gender. Examples of this is when teaching scientist a female class will focus more on female scientist and when teaching math in a male class then there will be more of a focus of tying it into sports (Lewin, 2011).

## **How does single-sex benefit students?**

It is believed that single-sex education can help increase self-esteem (Haag, 2000). It also offers an environment that students feel more comfortable in which will lead to better classroom discussion. Increase in subjects that certain genders are usually not interested can also be beneficial. An example of this is boys taking more of an interest in reading and writing and girls taking more of an interest in math and science (NASSPE, n.d).

## **Why are people against single-sex education?**

Segregation between races is unconstitutional therefore segregation between sexes should not be allowed in classrooms as well. It is also viewed that single sex education promotes gender stereotyping. Single-sex education also reduces the opportunity for boys and girls to work together. In the work world males and females are forced to work together therefore it is important for boys and girls to learn how to work together at a young age in school (Lewin, 2011). One of the major opposing points is that not all boys are masculine and not all girls are feminine so by separating based on the norm does not help children who are not considered the norm. Single-sex education is discriminatory Some studies have also shown that a higher percentage of girls in a class can decrease disruptions and also helps generate better relationships between all students and teachers (Stranberry, n.d.).

## **Why are people for single-sex education?**

It allows teachers to use strategies for single sex classrooms that would not work in a co-ed classroom.

It allows for different classroom studies to be done that are focused on a single sex. This helps students be able to relate to the material being presented to them in an easier manner. It also allows for students to be able to voice their opinions and ideas without feeling judged by the opposite. Advocates also believe that it boost test scores. A study done by Stetson University in 2008 showed that over a 4 year pilot the boys in a coed class scored about 55% proficient on the FCAT while boys in all boys classroom scored 85% (NASSPE, n.d). Also it is believed that students in a single sex classroom also have a higher self-esteem when it comes to academics (Haag, 2000, 1). Single Sex Classrooms are often more orderly and organized as well (Stranberry, n.d.).

## **How does single-sex education harm students?**

Students will grow up and be forced to work together in the future in the work world. By separating students in school they will not be able to learn these important skills. Also separation based on sex is not reality and can teach students more about gender stereotypes (Lewin, 2000).

## **Who has the final say?**

Parents or guardians have the final say when it comes down to their child's education. Since the claims of single-sex education being discriminatory the government has decided that it cannot be forced. Therefor the decision is left up to the parents or guardians because they simply know the child and can decide what is in the best interest for the child (Stranberry, n.d.).

## Work Cited

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