

# Report Reveals Racial Wealth Gap Widens in the United States

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent | @StacyBrownMedia

(NNPA) - A new report from WalletHub, a personal finance website, has found that the racial wealth gap in the United States is alive and well. The report, titled “2024’s States with the Biggest & Smallest Wealth Gaps by Race/Ethnicity,” compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 21 key metrics, ranging from the median household income gap to the unemployment rate gap. The report found that the median household wealth for Black Americans is just \$14,100, compared to \$187,300 for non-Hispanic white households. Hispanic households also lag behind, with a median household wealth of \$31,700. “The racial wealth gap is a persistent problem in the United States,” said Jill Gonzalez, a WalletHub analyst. “There are many factors that contribute to this gap, including unequal access to higher education and employment for minorities, as well as residential segregation.” The report also found that the racial wealth gap is more expansive in some states than others. For example, the District of Co-

lumbia has the broadest racial wealth gap, with a median household wealth of \$281,700 for non-Hispanic white households and just \$11,100 for Black households. “Even decades after the Civil Rights Movement, there is still a high degree of wealth inequality among racial groups in America,” WalletHub Analyst Cassandra Happe stated. “These gaps persist not just in held wealth but also in wages, poverty rates, homeownership rates, and unemployment rates. Part of this wealth disparity is due to unequal access to education, which can put some people on a better financial footing from the start.” Statistics show that the racial income gap grows larger and larger each year, said Irving L. Joyner, a law professor at North Carolina Central University’s School of Law. Joyner said the growth of the gap has grown because those with more wealth have benefitted more abundantly from their investments and ability to survive the economic downturns within the economy while poorly individuals, mainly racial



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minorities, were forced to consume their meager resources to survive day-to-day and did not have resources which they could invest. “For those individuals who have the financial capacity, knowledge, and needed resources to engage in entrepreneurial pursuits, those programs can and do benefit them,” Joyner remarked. “Those opportunities, however, are not readily available for the vast majority of African Americans because of the absence of the resources and business skills that are required to begin and sustain these efforts. Hawaii has the smallest racial wealth gap, with a median household wealth of \$104,300 for non-Hispanic white households and \$87,300 for Black families. “The racial wealth gap is a complex issue with no easy solutions,” said Gonzalez. “However, the findings of our report suggest that there are some states that are making progress in closing the gap. We hope that other states will learn from their example.”

## Black Kids Keep Being Told Their Hair Needs to ‘Conform’

by Aziah Siid | WORD IN BLACK

(EDUCATION) - Who would have thought Darryl George’s school year would go this way? Certainly not him, or his mother Dareesha George. Since last fall, the 18-year-old and his mother have been in an ongoing battle with Barbers Hill High School in Texas, all because of his refusal to cut off his dreadlocks. The heated feud began back in September when Barbers Hill Independent School District suspended the teen for several days and threatened expulsion if he did not cut his hair. During the in-school suspension, George wasn’t given any hot lunches and sat on a stool for eight hours doing schoolwork without a teacher’s instruction, according to his family. Following the first suspension, outrage spread across social media, prompting many people to ask why a predominantly white school is policing this Black boy? Despite the Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair — or CROWN Act as most people know it — prohibiting discrimination against Black students with natural hairstyles like afros, braids, bantu knots, locs, and twists, District Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole, insists on doubling down on the ramifications the George families have endured.

Now, nearly six months later, Dareesha and Houston attorney, Allie Booker, have filed a civil rights lawsuit stating the school’s hair policy violates state law. “White boys can wear their hair over their ears and collar as long as they don’t braid it like a Negro,” Booker said in a statement to NPR. What’s Poole’s justification for infringing on the student’s rights? The Barbers Hill dress code. In addition, on Jan. 14, the superintendent released a full-page ad in the Houston Chronicle justifying his decision, saying he believes the dress code is legal, and that it teaches students to conform. “Being American requires conformity,” Poole wrote in the ad. The folks involved in the CROWN Act movement disagree. “Mr. Superintendent, if being American requires conformity, then please conform to the Texas CROWN Act which prohibits racial discrimination based on hairstyle,” they posted in response on The CROWN Act official Instagram. “Your actions not only undermine the essence of individual expression, but also the significant ef-



Darryl George (AP photo)

forts made to enact the CROWN Act in Texas. We must ask ourselves: Shouldn’t ‘conformity’ in America align with our laws and values that celebrate diversity and inclusion? Let’s continue to fight for the end of race-based hair discrimination these race-based practices.” In addition, one of the co-authors of the CROWN Act, State Rep. Ron Reynolds, told Houston Public Media News that Darryl has the “right to express himself the way he chooses to do by wearing his hair in a lock, in a dreadlock, and that is perfectly acceptable and normal and lawful in Texas for a high school student to do that.” Reynolds also pointed out that what Black students are being asked to conform to is a European standard. “The message they’re sending to these other students is, ‘You either conform to our European standards of what a student should look like and dress like and act like, or else you’re going to face the same consequences as Darryl and you won’t be allowed to attend school here,’” Reynolds said. Ibram X. Kendi, director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University and author of “Stamped from the Beginning” and “How to Be an Antiracist,” also explained what conformity actually means. “To be racist in a multicultural society is to mandate and defend cultural conformity,” Kendi wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. “To be antiracist in a multicultural society is to accept and respect every hairstyle, hair covering, and hair adornment. I want to live in a society where we teach young people acceptance and respect by first accepting and respecting them.” And State Rep. Reynolds said it doesn’t matter how many ads the Barbers Hill district puts out. “We are going to speak truth to power,” he said.

The Pflugerville Independent School District will open Proposals for:  
**Athletic Equipment & Supplies**  
**RFP #24-023AO**  
on Friday, February 16, 2024  
@ 2:00 p.m.  
All proposals may be submitted (by mail or hand carry) to: Pflugerville ISD:  
1401 West Pecan  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
Attn: Ana Orozco Armas  
Proposals may be picked up in person or downloaded from the PISD website at: [www.pfisd.net](http://www.pfisd.net)

Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health  
1111 E. Cesar Chavez Street  
Austin, TX 78702  
**RFP 2401-001 Data Governance Platform**  
**Due Date: Friday, February 9, 2024. by 2:00 PM CT**  
Central Health acknowledges that the enterprise requires a Data Governance Platform. The purpose of the request is to work alongside a vendor and obtain a solution that stands up a platform that works with the data warehouse to create a unified system to facilitate data governance and the documentation that accompanies it. Ordering Instructions: Package can be downloaded from: <https://prod.bidsync.com/central-health>  
OR <http://www.centralhealth.net/finance/purchasing>  
OR <http://www.txsmartbuy.com/sp>

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A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held **Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm CST at Cook Elementary School** located at **1511 Cripple Creek Dr Austin, TX 78758.** Bids or proposals are due **Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm CST**, and bids or proposals should be emailed to [bidsctx@cadencemcshane.com](mailto:bidsctx@cadencemcshane.com). Late bids will not be accepted.  
There will be no public opening of bids or proposals. After receipt of bids or proposals, **Cadence McShane Construction** will conduct its evaluation of the subcontractor bids or proposals in relation to the project requirements and will select the bid(s) or proposal(s) that offers the best value to AISD. AISD, the Owner, reserves the right to waive any informality and/or to reject any, or all bids, or proposals. Contact Julia Mason at [JMason@cadencemcshane.com](mailto:JMason@cadencemcshane.com) for additional information on this project. Drawings and specifications are available on Virtual Builder’s Exchange and SmartBid, Contact Julia Mason for a SmartBid invitation.



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