

## **Boys Only - Girls Only!**

Boys will be boys. Girls will be girls. That's why some public school districts want boys and girls at different schools. They are called single-sex schools.

Studies show that girls and boys don't learn the same way. Those studies show that girls learn math and science better without boys around. Boys do better in reading and the arts without girls around.

Not everyone believes single-sex education is a good idea. Some critics argue that grouping kids by sex is the same as grouping them by race.

"We know that separate does not always mean equal," said one critic of single-sex schools.

Some students prefer single-sex schools. One boy said he went to a co-ed, or mixed-sex, school until eighth grade. Now he attends an all-boys school.

"It's better because I don't have to do anything to impress girls," he said. "It doesn't take me long in the morning to get ready."

Many parents believe same-sex schools help their children. They also believe such schools are safer.

Many private schools are for girls or boys only. However, there are fewer than 100 public single-sex schools in the United States. That number is

expected to rise because of new education laws.

"I couldn't imagine going to a single-sex school," one girl said. "Some of my best friends are guys."

Are single-sex public schools a good idea? Read both sides of the debate on the next page. Then decide for yourself.

## **Yes! Single Sex Schools Make the Grade.**

Plain and simple, single sex schools lead to better education. After all, isn't that what schools are really all about?

Test scores tend to be higher at single-sex schools. Students at those schools focus on learning. They are not wasting time passing notes in class and trying to impress members of the opposite sex.

© 2012 ReadWorks®, Inc. All rights reserved. Article: Copyright © 2004 Weekly Reader Corporation. All rights reserved. *Weekly Reader* is a registered trademark of Weekly Reader Corporation. Used by permission.

1

---

# **ReadWorks.org**

THE SOLUTION TO READING COMPREHENSION

## **ReadWorks**

Non-fiction: Boys Only - Girls Only!

---

In single-sex schools, girls have a better chance to build leadership skills. They are also more likely to speak out and ask questions.

In single-sex schools, all students are equal. There is less peer pressure and less bullying. Both girls and boys have more freedom to explore their own interests and abilities.

## **No! Single Sex Schools Don't Fix Anything.**

In the real world, men and women work together and live together. Boys and girls also need to interact with one another during their school years. That way, they will understand how to cope with one another as adults.

"I never got to hear the girls' point of view in my classes," said a student at an all-boys school. "In the real world, guys and girls have to learn from each other ."

Single-sex schools are the result of a poor education system. At well-run mixed schools, girls can be just as successful as boys.

Single-sex schools divide students at a time when they should be on equal terms.