

DIVERSITY AS A QUALITY INDICATOR

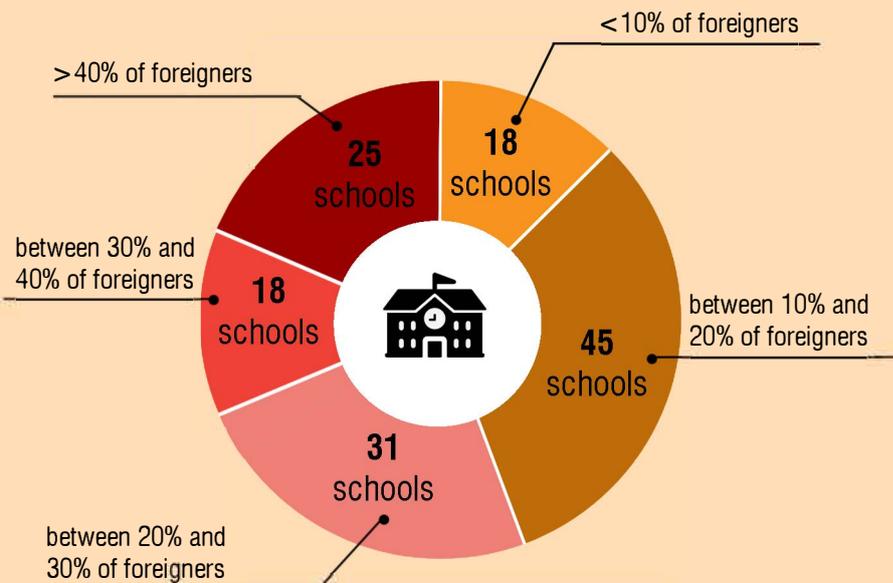
The composition and especially the presence of foreigners is interpreted by families as an indicator of low achievement and bad performance. Several schools and municipalities in different contexts have tried to work on the message that diversity is a value in order to change this narrative. Nevertheless, most of the parents are not aware of the instrumental advantages for their children of living in a diverse learning environment and they see only the potential flaws: slowdown of the learning activities, relational difficulties, exposure of their children to unpleasant and not accepted behaviours. In order to counteract this narrative, information should stress the **instrumental advantages** of an heterogeneous environment.

? FAQs

- Is the presence of foreign students always an obstacle to school performance?
- In which way a diverse environment would help children in acquiring useful skills?
- Which kind of skills does diversity provide?

DATA AND EVIDENCE - FROM THE CONTEXT OF MILAN -

Primary school composition



Average rate of foreign students enrolled in primary schools in Milan: 17,1%

14 schools having between 25% and 40% of foreign students have test results **above the city average** in math

12 schools having between 25% and 40% of foreign students have test results **above the city average** in italian

7 schools having more than 25% of foreign students have test results **above the city average** in both subjects

Cordini M., Parma A., Ranci C. (2019) White flight in Milan: school segregation as a result of home to school mobility, Urban Studies, 56 (15): 3216-3233

Cordini M., Parma A. (2016) Alunni stranieri e performance scolastiche: il caso di Milano, Rivista delle Politiche Sociali, 2/2016

DIVERSITY SKILLS

- Confronting bias
- Mitigating microaggressions
- Cross-cultural communication
- Multi-cultural and multiethnic understanding
- Combatting stereotypes
- Cultural awareness and belonging
- Inclusive management

"Charta of diversity" 

EXAMPLES OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES



Milan

Changing school reputation policy



American University School of Education

The Benefits of inclusion and diversity in the classroom

