



**Advancing Equity Through Critical Reflections on  
Policy at the District Level**  
*Educational Equity Leaders Collaboration and  
Network Symposium*

Presented by Tiffany S. Kyser, M.A.  
April 15, 2015



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# Agenda

- Introduction & Presentation Overview
- Equity Work in Region V
- Advancing Equity in Your Setting
- How the Center Can Assist You in Your Efforts

# Introduction & Overview

Presenter Information

Center Overview

# Presenter: Tiffany Kyser, M.A.

- *Assistant Director of Technical Assistance*
- *Ph.D. Candidate, Urban Education Studies – Indiana University*
- Works in support of and collaboration with the Center's team to plan, direct, and manage supports and professional learning experiences offered to state and local education agencies throughout the Center's six-state region.



# Center Overview

One of the ten regional EACs funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Great Lakes Equity Center provides assistance to state education agencies and public school districts in the areas of race, gender, and national origin equity.



# Our Mission

Ensure equity in student access to and participation in high quality, research-based education

Expand states' and school systems' capacities to provide robust, effective opportunities to learn for ALL students

Reduce disparities among and between groups in educational outcomes

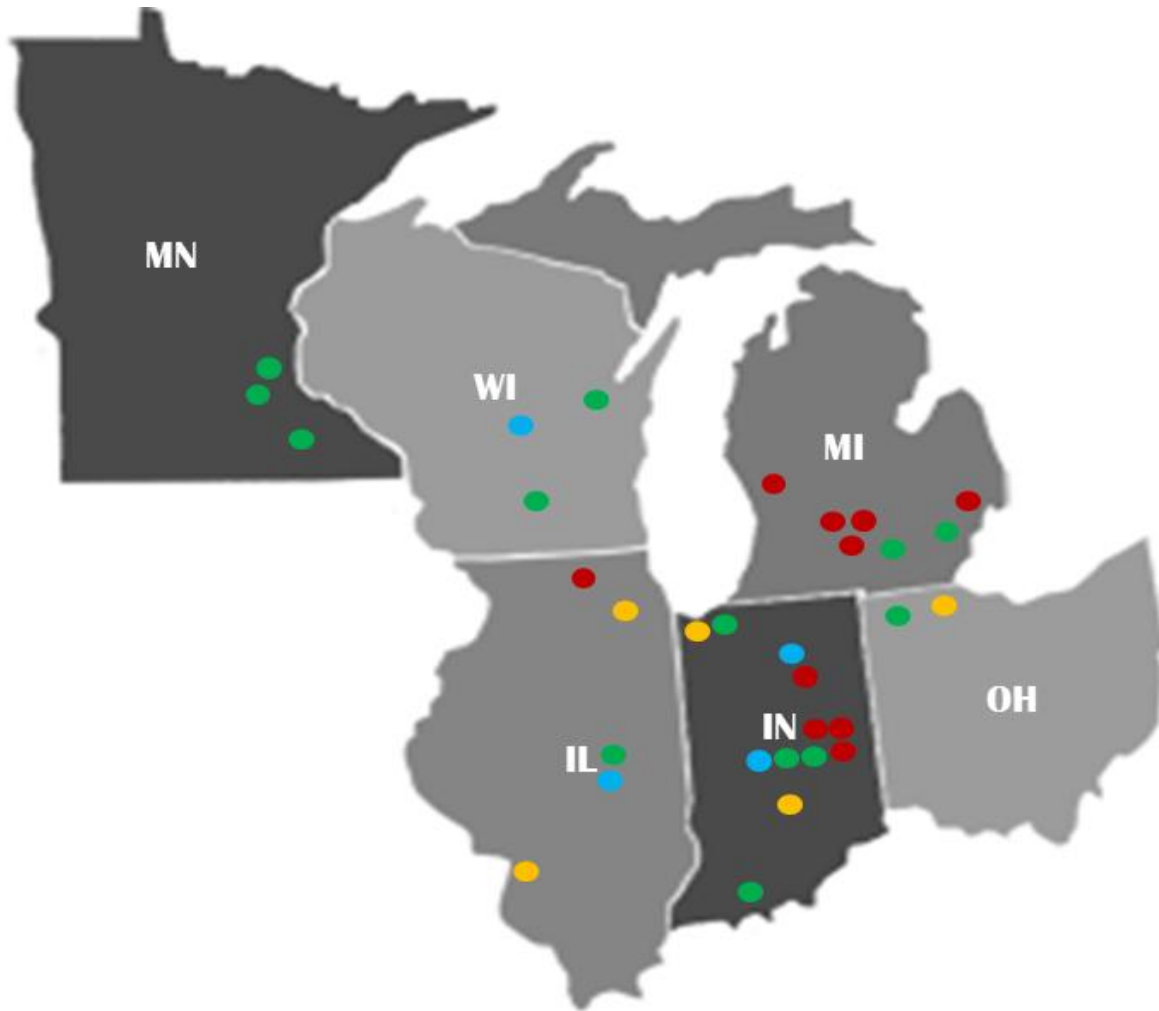
Serve as a resource for the Office for Civil Rights and Department of Justice

# Equity Work in Region V

Foci of Partnerships by State



# Partnerships Across Region V





# Technical Assistance Partnerships

ACTIVE	PENDING/ POTENTIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anoka-Hennepin School District, MN</li> <li>• North Eastern Local School District, OH</li> <li>• Metropolitan School District Decatur Township, IN</li> <li>• Valparaiso Community Schools, IN</li> <li>• Crestwood School District, MI</li> <li>• South Harrison Community Schools, IN</li> <li>• Appleton Area School District, WI</li> <li>• Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative, MI</li> <li>• Chicago Public Schools, IL</li> <li>• Rochester Public Schools, MN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toledo Public Schools, OH</li> <li>• Cahokia Unit Schools, IL</li> <li>• Indian Prairie School District, IL</li> <li>• Monroe County Community Schools, IN</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Department of Education</li> <li>• Wisconsin Department of Instruction</li> <li>• Indiana Department of Education</li> </ul>	

# Foci of Partnerships in Region V



Strategic planning.



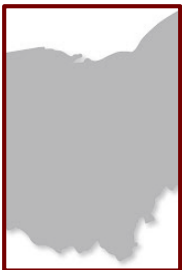
Implementing legislation;  
bullying and harassment  
prevention.



Disproportionality in discipline  
and special education, culturally  
responsive school based  
practices, supporting at the SEA  
level.



Disproportionality in discipline  
and culturally responsive PBIS;  
policy.



Harassment, intimidation and  
bullying.



Culturally responsive practices  
in MTSS, strategic planning,  
racial harassment.

# Our Partnership Activity

## Consultation

Collaboration Calls

Facilitated Learning  
and Planning

Co-development and  
co-delivery of  
Professional Learning  
Experiences

## Equity Tools

Development

Monitoring

Evaluation

## Resources

Networking

Readings/materials

Collaborating with  
Partner TA/D  
agencies

# Advancing Equity in Your Setting

Enacting Equity: People, Policies,  
Practices

Transformative Change Toward Equity:  
A Definition

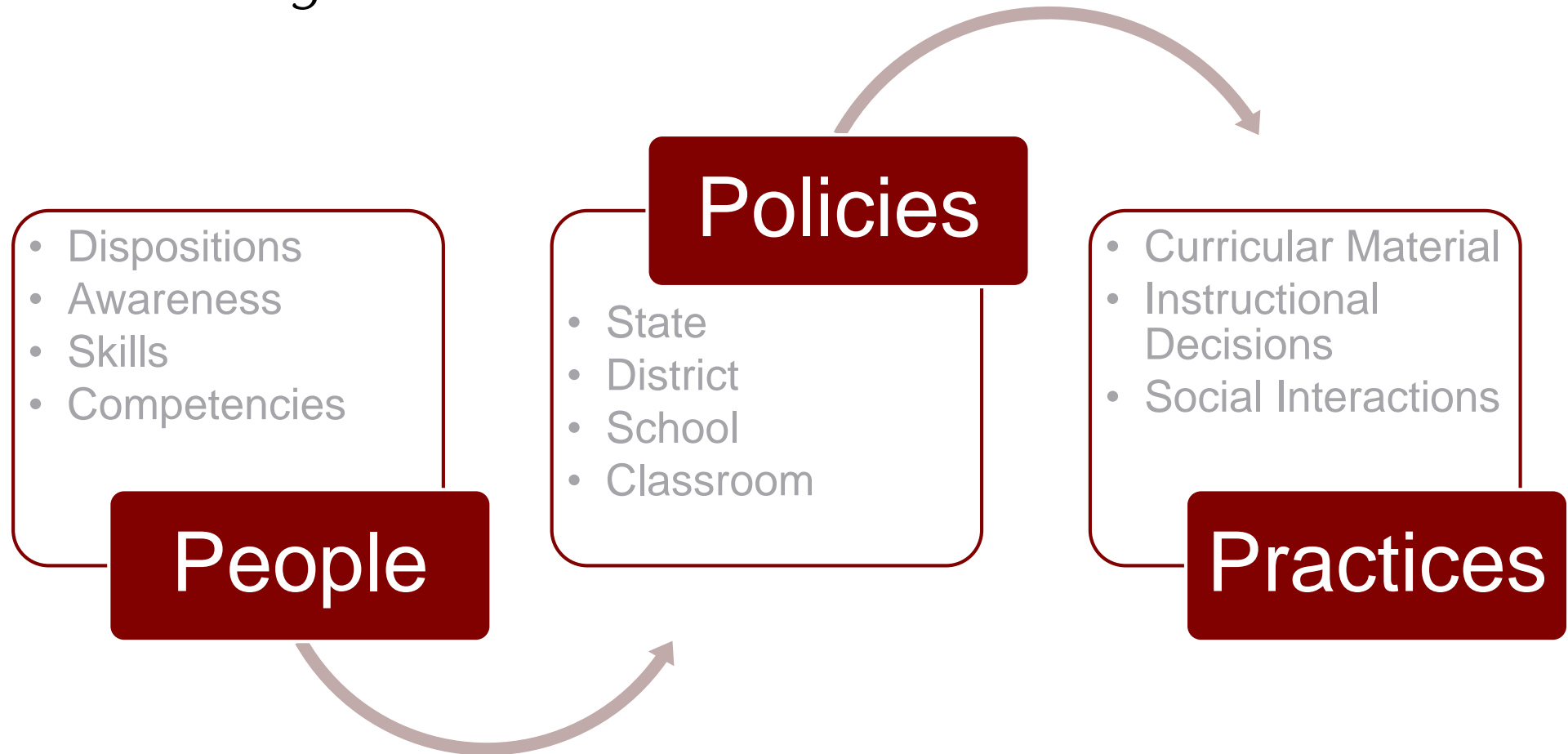
## Educational equity...

when educational policies, practices, interactions, and resources, are representative of, constructed by, and responsive to all people such that each individual has access to, can participate, and make progress in high-quality learning experiences that empowers them towards self-determination and reduces disparities in outcomes regardless of individual characteristics and cultural identities (Great Lakes Equity Center, 2011)

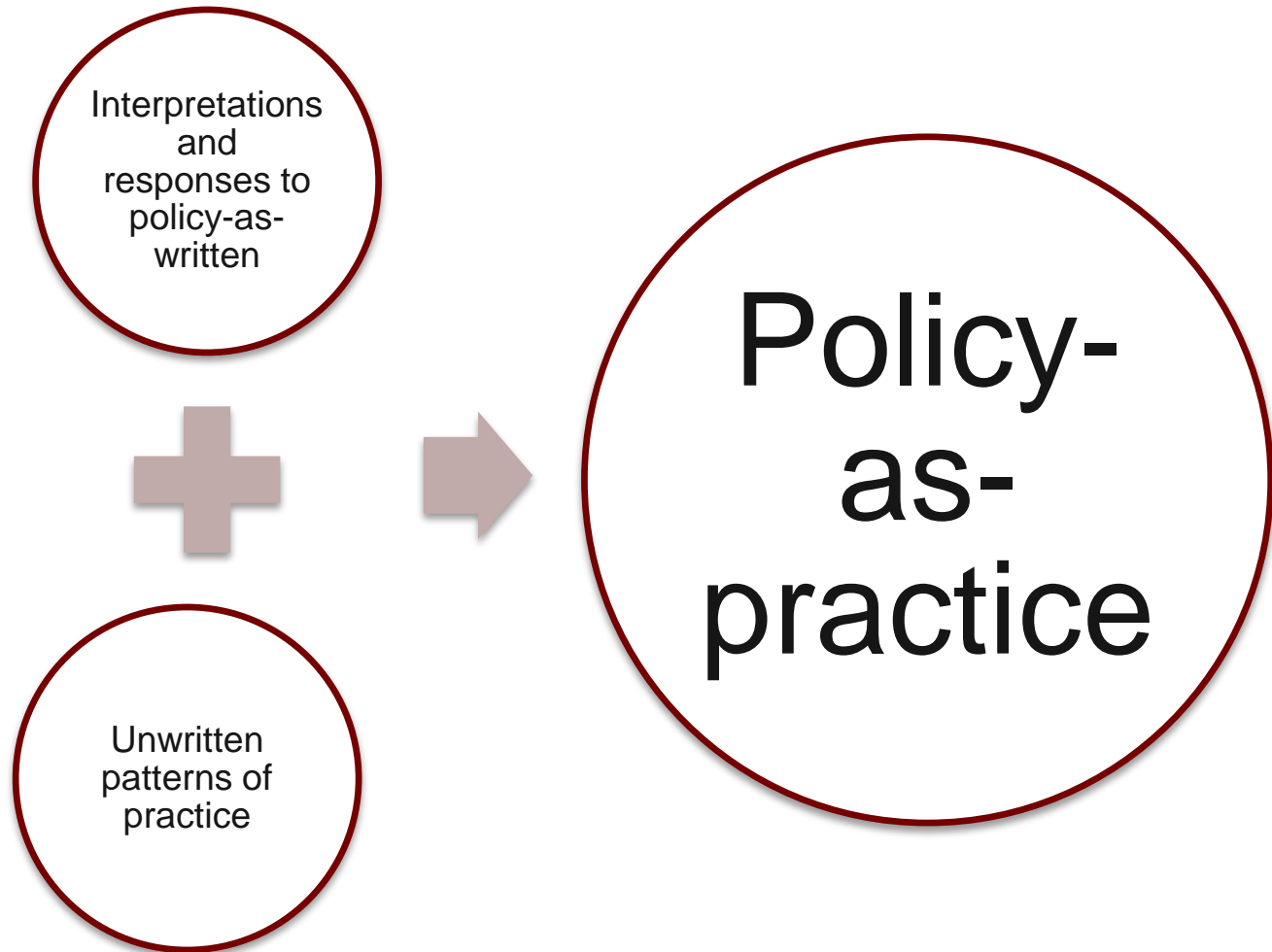
## Transformative change towards equity...

**persistent systemic** change that **disrupts** and **dismantles** historical legacies of normative **assumptions, beliefs, and practices** about individual characteristics and cultural identities that **marginalize** and **disenfranchise** people and groups of people.

Transformative change is enacted through...



# The Reciprocal Influence of Policy and Practice



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Asserts that policy is never simply implemented. Rather, it is interpreted, negotiated, and appropriated by multiple actors in educational environments (Brown, Maguire, & Ball, 2010; Levinson et al., 2009).

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This positions educators as key actors in the policy process, rather than implementers or recipients (Hodgson, Edward, & Gregerson, 2007).

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Local policy actors create a new version informed by their histories, contextual circumstances, and institutional and historical forces (Oakes, Welner, Yonezawa, & Allen (2005).



# Policies Should...

**Create Access**

**Educate**

**Liberate**

**Rely on Research**

**Center those on the Margins**

**Provide Accountability Measures**

# How the Center Can Assist You in Your Efforts

Center's Service Delivery Model

Center Website

Center Products

Product Highlight

# Tiered Service Delivery Framework

## **TIER FOUR - SYSTEMIC EQUITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Sustained partnerships with systems engaged in transformative systemic improvement

## **TIER THREE: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**

Stand-alone learning experiences designed and facilitated by Center staff members

## **TIER TWO: TOPIC SPECIFIC TA**

Short-term consultations, customization of tools, and support activities to address discrete equity issues

## **TIER ONE: RESOURCE DISSEMINATION**

Tools, publications, digital media, data, etc. made available to broad, public audiences



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Welcome to the **Great Lakes Equity Center**, one of ten regional Equity Assistance Centers (EACs) funded by the U.S. Department of Education. We provide technical assistance resources and professional learning opportunities related to equity, civil rights, and systemic school reform throughout our six-state region of **Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin**. Please explore our website to learn more about what we do and how we may serve as a resource for you. We look forward to hearing from you!



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*Educate, Engage, Empower – For Equity*

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# Resources and Learning Opportunities



**Equity by Design:**  
Engaging School Communities in  
Critical Reflections on

Erin M. Macey  
Kathleen K. A. Thorius  
Seena M. Skelton



**Policy Review Guide**

Policy: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

For each item, please examine the policy and generate rationale statement(s). For each rationale statement, provide a solid body of data to support the claim you assert in the rationale statement (i.e., evidence). You may have several rationale statements for each item and several pieces of evidence for each rationale. Each piece of evidence should address ONE item. NOTE: For some items, you will be asked to select a rating. In these instances, your rationale statement should clearly support and address the rating you select.

**POLICY CONTENT**

**Legal**  
To what extent does the policy satisfy/avoid the legal mandates?  
To a Great Extent (3) Somewhat (2) Very Little (1) Not At All (0)

Substantive Explanation Statement

Evidence

Consideration / Recommendation

**Research-based**  
To what extent does the policy align to or depart from principles derived from scholarly research that will likely bring about effective outcomes?

Substantive Explanation Statement

Evidence

Consideration / Recommendation

## Equity by Design Podcast Series

### Episode 1: Critical Reflection on Policy



A key step in advancing educational equity is the critical examination of policies that shape students' learning experiences. Listen in as a team uses the following four critical questions to examine policy in their district.

- What is the intent behind this policy?
- What social constructions does this policy embrace?
- Who benefits and who does not?
- What actions will redress the inequities we see in our policy?

This podcast pairs with our Equity by Design brief, *Engaging School Communities in Critical Reflection on Policy*.

RELEASE DATE: November 27, 2012

## Upcoming Webinars

Reserve your spot for an upcoming webinar. Each Equi-Learn webinar is limited to 45 participants, so register today. To access past webinars, [click here](#). There is no cost to participate in Great Lakes Equity Center webinars.

### Ensuring Civil Rights in Education: Critically Using Social Emotional Learning in Schools



**REGISTER**

**WEBINAR DATE:** April 29th, 2015

**TIME:** 3:30-4:30pm EST (2:30-3:30pm CST)

**FACILITATORS:** Seena Skelton, PhD & Kitty Chen, MS

This webinar describes Social and Emotional Learning practices and makes a connection to safe and inclusive schools. Participants will:

- Learn about evidence-based programs to implement Social and Emotional Learning and
- Critically examine the equity implications for implementing Social and Emotional Learning instructional practices in schools

# Equity by Design Brief: Engaging School Communities in Critical Reflection on Policy



## **Equity by Design:**

Engaging School Communities in  
Critical Reflections on Policy

Erin M. Macey  
Kathleen K. A. Thorius  
Seena M. Skelton

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- Thorius, K. A. K. (2014, January). *Equity in access, participation, and outcomes: A framework for authentic integration planning*. Presented at the *Minnesota Integration Planning Meeting to the Minnesota Department of Education*.
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# Thank you for your participation!

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