

Educational Equity: What's It All About?

An Equi-learn Webinar



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Great Lakes Equity Center

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.

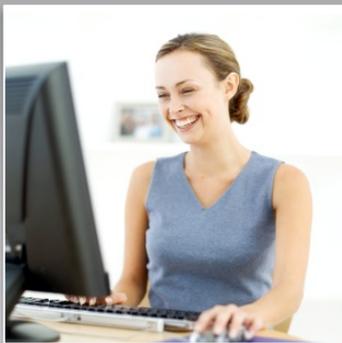


Welcome to Equi-Learn Webinar Series



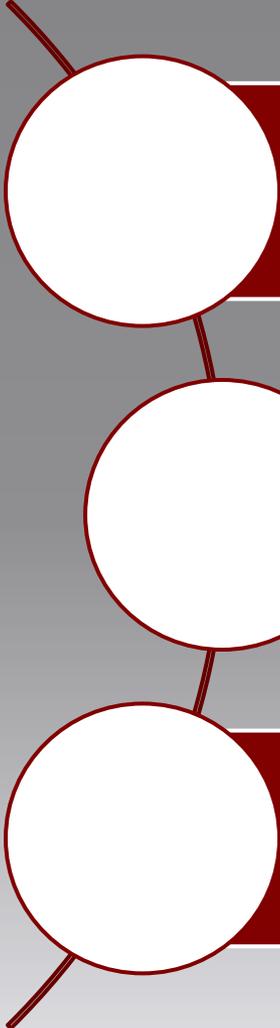
This presentation is interactive. Participants will be asked to join in real-time group discussions via chat and/or by using a computer microphone

To reduce noise distractions, audio will only be enabled during designated points in the presentation.



Please download the webinar materials accessible on the Great Lakes Equity Center website www.greatlakesequitycenter.org

Participants in this webinar will be able to:



Articulate a strong rationale for advancing educational equity in your local setting;

Discuss the relationship between equity and equality;
and

Apply two or three strategies to begin to critically examine their own practices related to promoting equitable learning environments

Reflect & Share

Reflect

What does equity mean to me?

Share

One word that you associate with equity

Equity, an education mandate ...

A moral imperative...

It's both!

TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Protects people from discrimination based on race, color or national origin in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title VI states that: No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Programs and activities that receive ED funds must operate in a non-discriminatory manner. These may include, but are not limited to:

admissions, recruitment, academic programs, student treatment and services, counseling and guidance, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, vocational education, recreation, physical education, athletics, if it affects those who are intended to benefit from the Federal funds.

A Moral Imperative

The quest for **educational equity** is a moral imperative for a society in which education is a crucial determinant of life chances.

Henry M. Levin,
2009

Education for All Is a "Moral Imperative"

Jesse Jackson, 2012

... we are increasingly focused on what we need to do at the federal -- and the state and local level -- to advance **equity through education reform**it is our moral responsibility to act swiftly and dramatically to change educational outcomes for these kids.

Arne Duncan, 2010



More than 50 years after Brown vs. Board of Education, most African American children [and other children of color] in this country are still denied the education they need to find meaningful and well-paying jobs ... to thrive in college ...to participate fully in this nations economic and civic life ... and to join and continue the fight for a truly just society (Wilkins, 2006).

Why are we concerned about equity?

Opportunity gaps

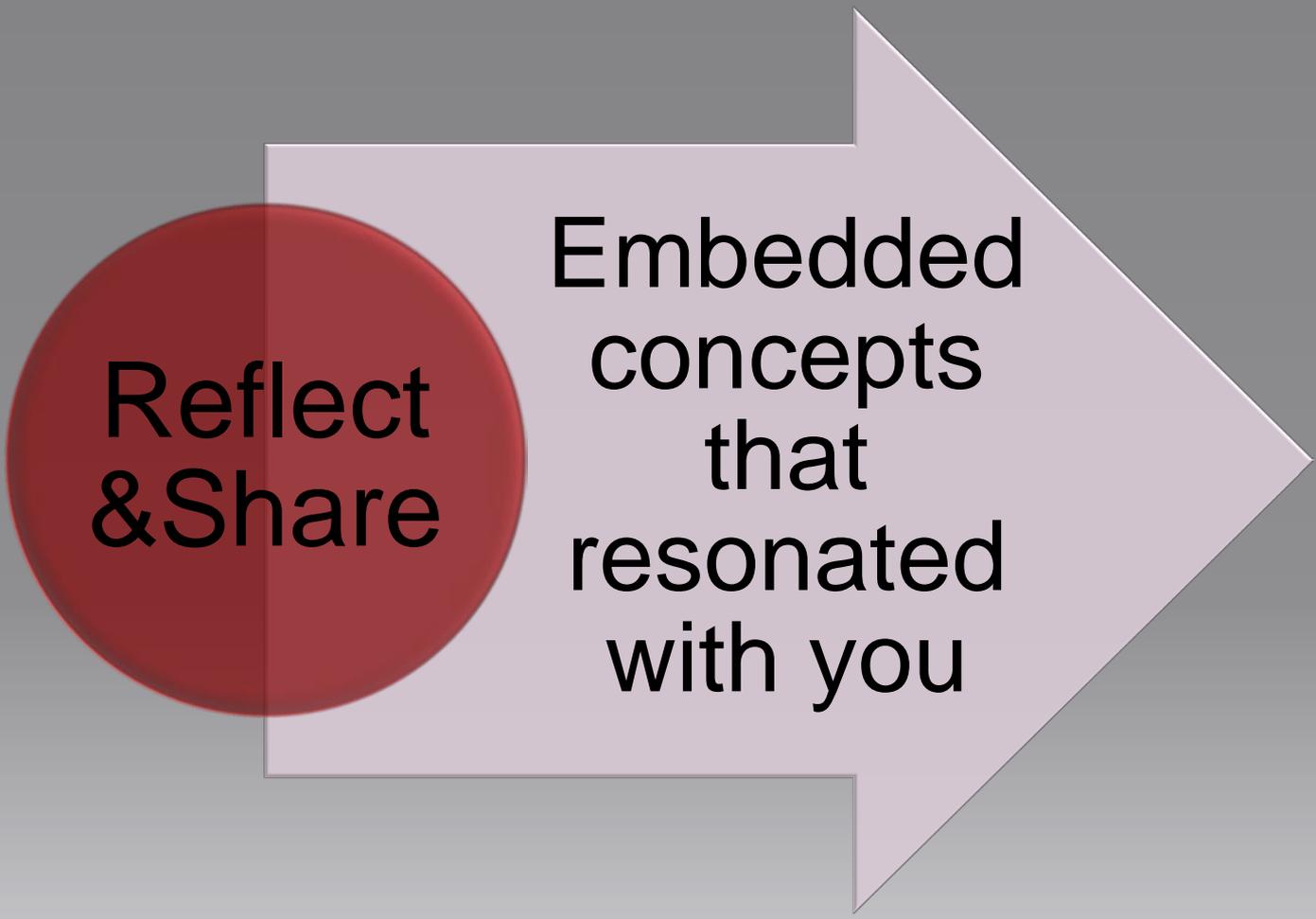
Disproportionality

Disparities in student outcomes

So what do we mean
by equity?

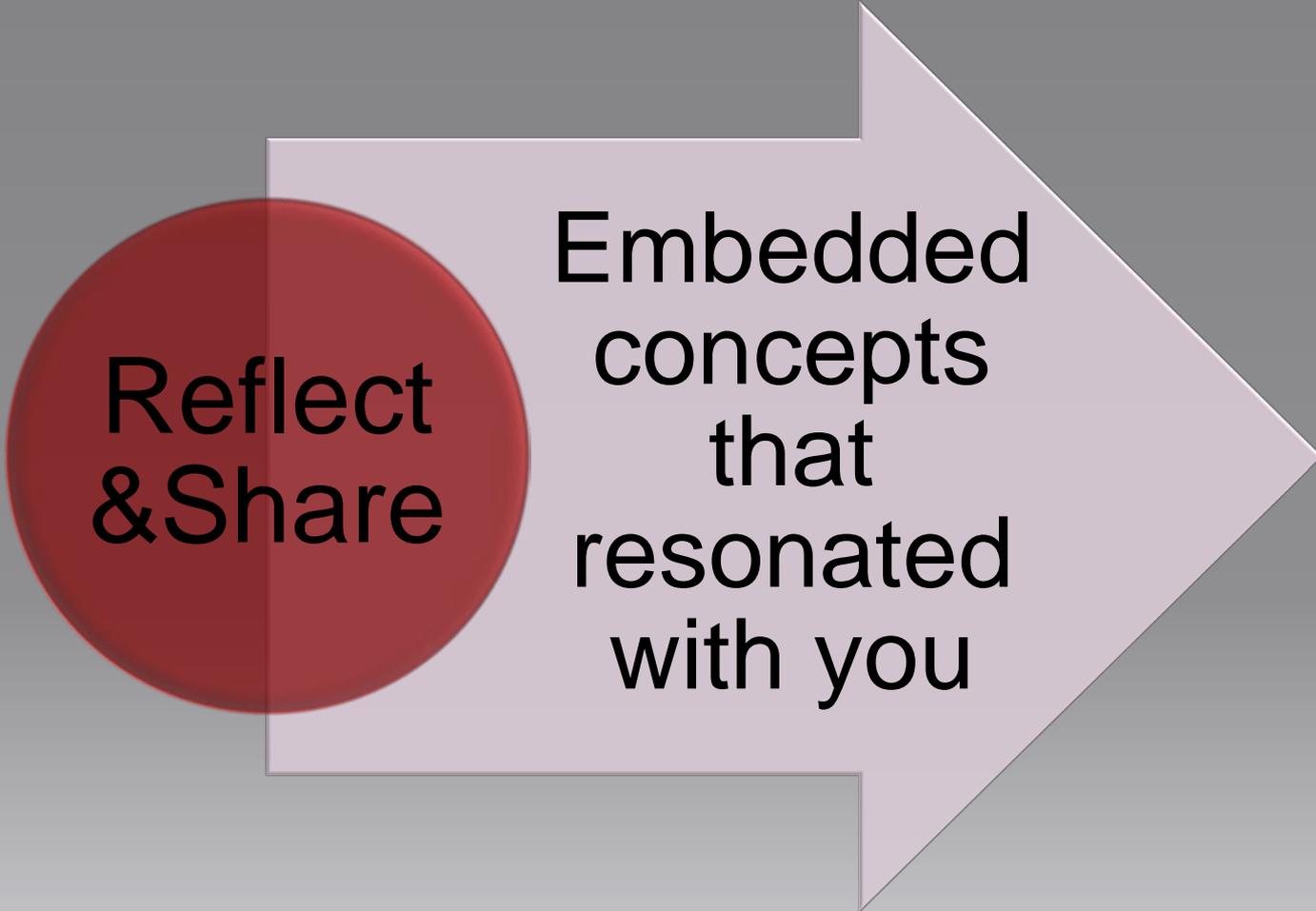
Educational Equity is ...

- when educational practices, policies, curricula, resources, and school cultures are representative of all students, such that each student has access to, can participate in and make progress in high quality learning experiences, regardless of her or his race, socio-economic status, gender, ability, religion, national origin, linguistic diversity, or other characteristics.



Reflect
& Share

Embedded
concepts
that
resonated
with you



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Dr. Pedro Noguera
Professor of Teaching and
Learning
on *Equity and education*

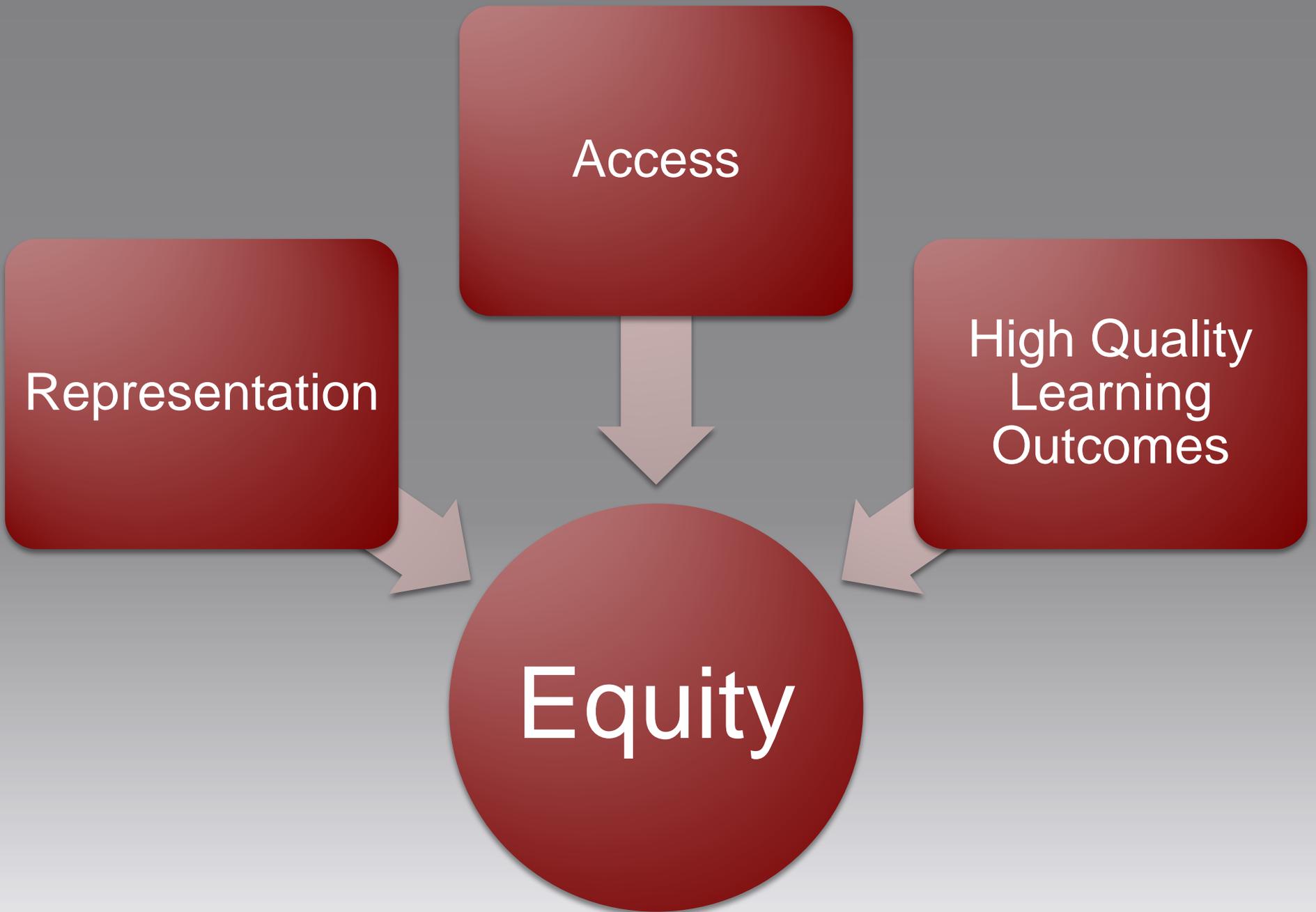
Video Clip



NYUSteinhardt

Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development





I know the answers,
but the teacher doesn't
ask me!

Juan's Story

Juan



Miss Jones





Juan's Mother Mrs. Ortez



The Advanced Science Group

Juan's Story

- Download reading selection
- Take 3 minutes to read the scenario



In 3 or 4 sentences, share a connection you made with any of the three individuals: Miss. Jones, Juan, or Mrs. Ortez

Briefly explain their perspective on the issue.

Why aren't we talking
about equality?

Equality

..... is derived from the concept of fairness as uniform distribution, where everyone is entitled to the same level of access and can avail themselves if they so choose.

Equality

“.....But when a society is stratified into poles of advantage and disadvantage, with the inevitable consequences of privilege and exclusion, the promise of equal access to the discourses necessary for democratic participation rings hollow.”

Equity

When some are excluded or lack the knowledge, income, equipment, or [resources] necessary to participate fully in public discourse, they must overcome obstacles to access in order to ensure fairness.

Equity

Require remedies to redress historic injustices that have prevented or diminished access in the first place

In order to maximize opportunities for access experienced by certain groups, we must commit resources in order to level the playing field

Only focusing on equality works when everyone has a fair chance to win the race.



But it is not enough - The reality is some must run the race carrying the baggage of historical injustices in the forms of contemporary attitudes and beliefs, and current policies and practices





Juan's story revisited

What are the
equity issues in
this story?

Avoiding the pitfalls: What equity is not

Lowered expectations

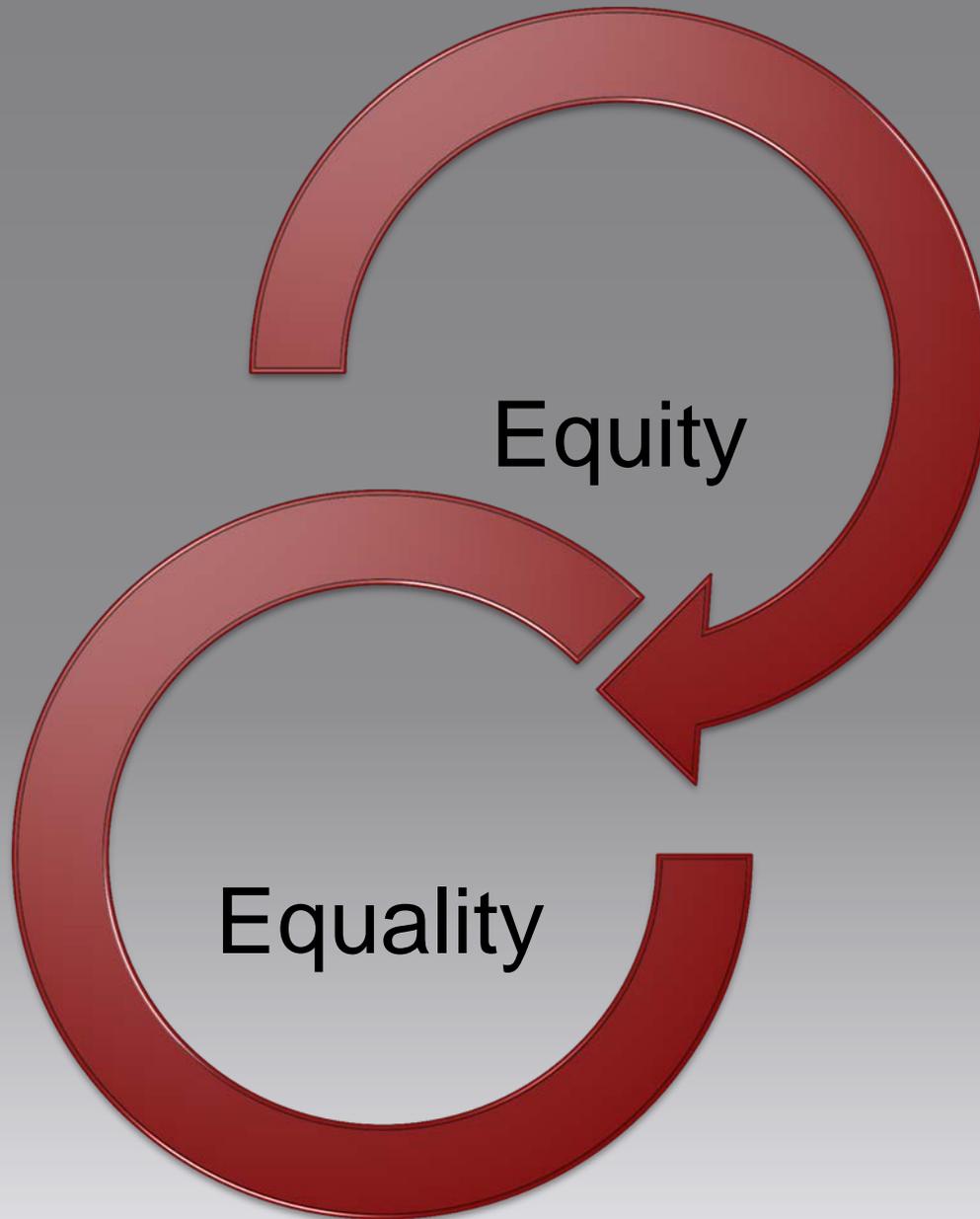
- Equity is - Maintaining high expectations and rigorous standards

Treating everyone the same in the name of fairness

- Equity is -
 - Differentiating actions, supports and strategies based on students' strengths, talents, preferences and needs
 - Providing multiple means for representation, expression and engagement

Racial Erasure

- Equity is -
 - Acknowledging, appreciating and affirming students' personal identities related to race, culture, national origin, gender/gender expression etc.
 - Examining the role race, gender and national origin play when confronted with evidence of systemic bias and disparities in student outcomes



Equity Ensures

- Equal access to participate and progress in high quality rigorous and relevant learning experiences for all students regardless of student characteristics
- That each student has an equal opportunity for life success by schools preparing and positioning students to successfully enter a career or college/university of “their” choice after high school

Equity begins with
understanding the
cultural nature of
learning

Teaching and Learning is a Culturally Mediated Activity

Culture is dynamic, contextual and socially mediated.



Learning is mediated by social interactions with people, tools and shared experiences.



What is taught and how instruction occurs communicate what is culturally valued.



Changing for equity



Moving Towards Equity

Reframe deficit thinking

Creating opportunities to learn

Dislodge deficit discourse

Demonstrate a valuing of diversity and use the language of possibility

Revising stratifying programming

Negotiate agreements for cultural practices that create inclusive, respectful, supportive and responsive learning environments.

Implications for:

- District
- School
- Classroom

Policies

People

- Dispositions
- Awareness
- Skills
- Competencies

- Everyday
 - Curricular Material
 - Instructional Decisions
 - Social Interactions

Practices

Strategies for critically examining your own practice

Use the *Equity in Practice Self Assessment Form* for examining your own practice

Invite a colleague to observe a lesson and provide feedback using the *Equity in Practice Observation Form*

Observe student participation in your class for patterns of engagement for specific students groups

Why Equity Now?

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn

To ensure equal access and participation in quality learning experiences

To prepare all students for success in a global community

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- <http://www.edtrust.org/>

Thank you for your participation!

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