THE ADVOCATES' GUIDE

Improving Education Resource Equity

ALLIANCE FOR RESOURCE EQUITY

Uniting advocates and education leaders to unlock excellence for every student

No two children are alike. Parents and teachers understand this intuitively. And they respond by working to provide the right combination of supports at the right time to meet each child's unique needs so they can achieve their biggest dreams.

Yet many schools and school systems don't follow this example. They are set up as if all students need the same things. Worse yet, students of color and students with higher needs — such as students from low-income backgrounds, students with disabilities, English learners, and students experiencing homelessness, foster care, or the juvenile justice system — are often *less* likely than their peers to have access to the high-quality learning experiences that research tells us are necessary to prepare them for college and career.

But, change is possible and is happening in districts across the country as school systems assemble the right combination of resources to support every student — including strong and diverse teachers and school leaders, empowering, rigorous content, student supports and interventions, and the funding necessary to pay for it all. This is what we call **education resource equity.**

The Alliance for Resource Equity has developed an *Education Resource Equity Toolkit* to support district leaders and community advocates in moving from learning about education resource equity to assessing their own system to taking action to eliminate inequities.

Flip the page to see what action community members can take!

As community advocates, there are many actions you can take to advance education resource equity in your own district:
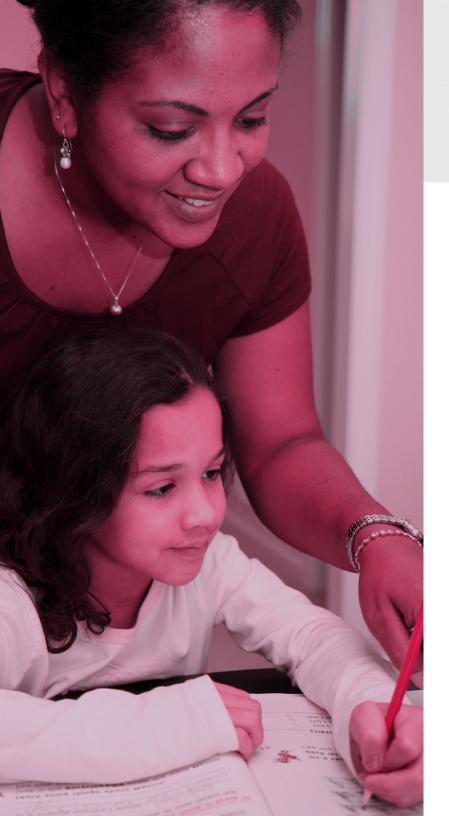
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Get Ready

- ☐ **Read** *The Education Combination* with a group of local advocates to learn more about the 10 dimensions of education resource equity that unlock better, more equitable experiences in school for all students, and discuss how you believe your local school district is addressing these areas.

- ☐ **Get inspired** by the work of the **Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence** in Montgomery County, Maryland by watching videos of students and community advocates using education resource equity data to demand change in their district.

- ☐ **Share** the *Education Resource Equity Toolkit* with your district leadership (e.g., school board members, superintendent, etc.) and other community advocates.

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Reach out

- ☐ **Request** a meeting between district practitioners (e.g., school board member, superintendent or leadership team, chief equity officer, chief schools officer, etc.) and community advocates to complete the *The Resource Equity Diagnostic* together.

  - **Offer** to help the district host the meeting and/or to help facilitate the meeting.

  - **Use** the *Sample Meeting Agenda* to plan the meeting.

  - **Identify and invite** a diverse set of district practitioners and community-based equity advocates representing historically underserved students, families, civil rights organizations, the business community, and others to participate in the meeting and follow up action.

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Roll up your sleeves and collaborate

☐ **Complete** the ***The Resource Equity Diagnostic*** in collaboration with the district.

- If the district does not agree, you can publicly request the district complete the diagnostic on its own and publish the results.

☐ **Identify** clear action steps to address the inequities identified by ***The Resource Equity Diagnostic***. *See the **Resouce Equity Guidebooks** page for more details.*

☐ **Sign up** for additional updates on the **Alliance for Resource Equity** website or reach out to the **Alliance for Resource Equity** directly for support.

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