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
Agenda

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVE</th>
<th>PENDING/ POTENTIAL</th>
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| • Anoka-Hennepin School District, MN  
• North Eastern Local School District, OH  
• Metropolitan School District Decatur Township, IN  
• Valparaiso Community Schools, IN  
• Crestwood School District, MI  
• South Harrison Community Schools, IN  
• Appleton Area School District, WI  
• Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative, MI  
• Chicago Public Schools, IL  
• Rochester Public Schools, MN  
• Minnesota Department of Education  
• Wisconsin Department of Instruction  
• Indiana Department of Education | • Toledo Public Schools, OH  
• Cahokia Unit Schools, IL  
• Indian Prairie School District, IL  
• Monroe County Community Schools, IN |
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.

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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...

- **People**
  - Dispositions
  - Awareness
  - Skills
  - Competencies

- **Policies**
  - State
  - District
  - School
  - Classroom

- **Practices**
  - Curricular Material
  - Instructional Decisions
  - Social Interactions
The Reciprocal Influence of Policy and Practice

Interpretations and responses to policy-as-written

Unwritten patterns of practice

Policy-as-practice
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).

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

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

King Thorius, K.A., Maxcy,B.D., Macey, E., & Cox, A. (2014)
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
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!
Resources and Learning Opportunities

Equity by Design Podcast Series

Episode 1: Critical Reflection on Policy

SAVE THE DATE
Equity Leaders’ Institute
September 14-15, 2015

Equity by Design: Engaging School Communities in Critical Reflection on Practice

Equity by Design: Engaging School Communities in Critical Reflection on Practice

Upcoming Webinars

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

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
References


Thank you for your participation!

Website: http://glec.education.iupui.edu/

Email: glec@iupui.edu