Engaging Stakeholders in Critical Reflection on Policy

Michigan Department of Education
AG Core Planning Team Meeting

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During our time together we will:

- Examine the Great Lakes Equity Center Policy Review Tool
- Discuss a process for engaging stakeholders in critical reflection on policy
- Explore the utility of the tool for the review of state-level policies
Purpose and rationale

To provide a process and tool by which stakeholders can engage in critical examination of and reflection on the policies that shape and inform daily practices and thereby ensure that policy and practice are consistent with the larger goals of the community, including a focus on equity and social justice.
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 and make progress in high quality learning experiences, regardless of her or his race, sex, gender, ability, religion, national origin, linguistic diversity, or other characteristics.
Enacting transformative systemic change through addressing policies, people and practices
How the work gets done

- State
- District
- School
- Classroom

People
- Dispositions
- Awareness
- Skills
- Competencies

Policies

Practices
- Curricular Material
- Instructional Decisions
- Social Interactions
Tool Design

Key elements of equitable policies identified from education and social policy literature

Initial draft of tool submitted for panel review

Feedback incorporated, second draft developed and reviewed by panel. Finalized for piloting

Individual policy study of district policies

External consultant conducted independent review of tool findings
Panel review

Application by Developers

External users feedback

Revisions based on user feedback

Tool Validation Process
Tool Walkthrough

- Review Domain
- Rating
- Assessment
- Finding
Process for review

1. Engaging and preparing stakeholders
2. Individual policy review using tool
3. Group discussion & preliminary findings
4. Critical reflection discussion
5. Final Findings and recommendations
Critical Reflection Discussion Questions

- What policies are in place?
- What is the intent behind this policy?
- What social constructions does this policy embrace?
- Who benefits from the way things are and who does not (Freire, 1998)?
- What actions will redress the inequities we see in our policies (Kozleski & Waitoller, 2010)?
Reviewing a state policy

Group practice
Customizing to address state-level needs

What works?
- Domains
- Layout
- Instructions

What needs to be modified?
- Added
- Deleted
- Adjusted

What additional supports are needed?
- Guidance
- Facilitation
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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