Advancing Educational Equity
Research, Policy, and Practice

Educational Leaders Without Borders (ELWB)
&
International Council of Professors of
Educational Leadership (ICPEL)
International Conference on Global Progressive
Leadership

Athens, Greece May 30, 2023

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Consider one word you would use to answer this question:

What is a quality of schools that prize, make progress toward, and achieve equity?
“Equity continues to be defined in a variety of ways and the goals and character of equity-oriented improvement efforts are impacted by how equity is defined”

(Wilcox & Lawson, 2022, p. 13)
Equality vs. Equity: 2 Frames

Equity refers to “upstream” social determinants of outcomes.

Equality refers to outcomes.

Equity emphasizes special policies, customized practices and non-discriminatory, personalized treatment.

Equality emphasizes “sameness” achieved by standardization.
Four equity-related commonalities around the globe

1. Gender equity with emphasis on inclusion and access for girls and students self-identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender;

2. Diverse newcomer students’ (e.g., migrants, immigrants) equity with emphasis on social inclusion;

3. All students’ preparation for workforce roles as adults; and

4. All students’ readiness to participate in and contribute to their host society’s political, economic, and social institutions.
Two main challenges for equity-oriented education research

• What are the optimal strategies for communicating and disseminating equity-oriented research findings and recommendations?

• What structures and strategies can local school systems employ to facilitate equity-oriented research utilization?

  While RPP-structured mechanisms for research communications and dissemination are essential, they do not ensure utilization in service of equity ideals. Practice-embedded, school-specific frameworks are needed

  (Wilcox & Lawson, p. 13).
What is the state of knowledge regarding schools that prize, make progress toward, and achieve equity?
Look Fors, Listen Fors, and Improvement Priorities

Look fors, listen fors and priorities in service of equity:
✓ Classrooms—teachers, teaching and learning strategies;
✓ Leadership—supervision and management approaches;
✓ Schools-as-organizations—organizational learning and improvement mechanisms;
For more on this topic...

Article

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Abstract: As student populations worldwide become more diverse and many are challenged by poverty and social exclusion, educational equity's importance grows, both as a core value and as a driver for school improvement and redesign. While national and local policies vary, as do resources in support of equity outcomes, it is timely to identify, synthesize, and evaluate the available research...
Related References


