

School Health on the Frontlines: Navigating Pandemics and Building Equity

> Dr. Elisha Smith Arrillaga October 7th, 2020

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Our Mission

The Education Trust–West is a nonprofit educational equity organization focused on educational justice and closing achievement and opportunity gaps through research, data, policy analysis, and advocacy.



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My Guiding Force











California's progress is too slow...

Latino students won't all meet math standards until **2060**

Black students won't all meet math standards until **2089**

Low Income students won't all meet math standards until **2064**

Source: Ed Trust—West analysis of California Department of Education, 2019 (accessed Oct. 2019).

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Parent Poll

- Representative sample of 1,200 California parents
- Statewide, 81% felt positively about their school's handling of coronavirus
- 48% higher than usual level of **stress for children**
- 86% of parents report higher than usual level of stress
- 91% of parents would like regular contact with counselors and teachers
- Headlines on what parents want:
 - Consistent contact with teachers
 - Equitable access to academic resources
 - Planning to ensure resources to stop learning gaps





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Student Responses

- Just 3 in 10 say they "really feel like part" of their school's community.
- Just 3 in 10 say they "feel connected" to their school.







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This can be an inflection point for equity and social justice.



A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction

Resources and guidance to support Black, LatinX, and Multilingual students to thrive in grades 6-8

vay to Equitable Math Instruction is an integrated approach to mathe natics that center nts in grades 6-8, addr to use now as they plan their curriculum, while also offering opportunities ection as they seek to develop an anti-racist math practice. The toolkit "strides" serve as multiple on-ramps for educators as they navigate the individual and collective journe from equity to anti-racism

DOWNLOADS

5 Strides on the Path to Math Equity

STRIDE 1

Dismantling Racism in Mathematics Instruction

Exercises for educators to reflect on their own biases to transform their instructional practice

STRIDE 2

Fostering Deep Understanding

Methods for deepening content understanding and relevance through crafted math discussions

STRIDE 3

Creating Conditions to Thrive

Environments and practices that support students' social, emotional and academic development

STRIDE 4

Connecting Critical Intersections

The interconnectedness of English language learning and the development of mathematical thinking

STRIDE 5

Sustaining Equitable Practice

Coaching structures that support math educators' in their ongoing centering of equity principles

Download All Strides

A Pathway to Equitable lath Instruction

Glossarv of Terms

Adapted from RacialEquityTools.org

As the group worked in community to create "A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction," we engaged in conversation that included the terminology listed below because work that involves explicit attention to Black. Latinx, and multilingual* students necessitates an interrogation of systemic racism in education. The group reviewed the terminology, engaged in conversation about ways that education sustains whiteness, and explored solutions to ensure the Toolkit does not replicate systemic inequities, specifically in mathematics education

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*The Pathwa systems car athwav to recognize th learner" is st Equitable Roadmap. T references. Math Instruction

Terminolc	Assimilation	Assimilation positions White people as the superior standard. Its ideas are	Ibram X. Kendi, How to be
WOD		rooted in the notion that certain racial groups are culturally and behaviorally	an Antiracist.
WOR Anti-Racisr		inferior; thus, assimilation is seen as the solution to liberate people of color from racism.	Random House, 2019
	Assimilationist	One who is expressing the racist idea that a racial group is culturally or behaviorally inferior and is supporting cultural or behavioral enrichment	Ibram X. Kendi, How to be an Antiracist,
Anti-Racist		programs to develop that racial group.	Random House, 2019
	Onramp	In this context, an "onramp" refers to a structured invitation to enter collective	Mica Pollock. Schooltalking
		antiracist efforts. If the collective effort is a highway full of travelers going in a	 Onramp discussion
		shared direction, an "onramp" proactively offers language, concepts, or action	
		steps that prompt people to enter work where they are.	
	Racism	 Racism = race prejudice + social and institutional power 	Dismantling Racism Works
		 Racism = a system of advantage based on race 	Web Workbook
		 Racism = a system of oppression based on race 	
		 Racism = a white supremacy system 	
		Racism is different from racial prejudice, hatred, or discrimination. Racism	
		involves one group having the power to carry out systematic discrimination	
		through the institutional policies and practices of the society and by shaping the	
		cultural beliefs and values that support those racist policies and practices.	
	White Supremacy	White supremacy is a historically based, institutionally perpetuated system of	Challenging White
		exploitation and oppression of continents, nations and peoples of color by white	Supremacy Workshop,
		peoples and nations of the European continent; for the purpose of maintaining	Sharon Martinas
		and defending a system of wealth, power and privilege.	Fourth Revision. 1995.
	Whiteness	Whiteness itself refers to the specific dimensions of racism that serve to	"White Fragility," Robin
		elevate white people over people of color. This definition counters the dominant	DiAngelo
		representation of racism in mainstream education as isolated in discrete	_
		behaviors that some individuals may or may not demonstrate, and goes beyond	
		naming specific privileges (McIntosh, 1988). Whites are theorized as actively	
		shaped, affected, defined, and elevated through their racialization and the	
		individual and collective consciousness' formed with it (Whiteness is thus	
		conceptualized as a constellation of processes and practices rather than as a	

Visit the website: www.equitablemath.org



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Barriers in access – not ability

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Approaches that

lack an explicit equity lens,



- fail to acknowledge the role of students' racial and cultural experiences in social-emotional development,
- that treat social-emotional and academic learning as separate,
- fail to address the processes and structures in schools that systemically disadvantage students of color, low-income students, and immigrant youths

May do more harm than good.

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SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AN EQUITY LENS

Changing Adult Beliefs And Mindsets



FROM A DEFICIT-BASED MINDSET TO A STRENGTH-BASED MINDSET



FROM ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL TO RECOGNIZING CULTURAL AND CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES



FROM ALLOWING BIAS TO IMPACT STUDENTS TO TARGETED AND CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO REDUCE BIAS Changing Systems And Policies



FOSTER STUDENT BELONGING



CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL



PROVIDE ACADEMIC AND HOLISTIC SUPPORTS



■ ■ <a> Image: Contract and the second sec



Justice and Equity in Action



Our actions will be their legacies.

DEMILITAR

Image credit: Johnny Silvercloud

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Thank you!

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