

A Measure of Equity

What is educational equity?

The Maryland State Department of Education has established educational equity as a critical matter of policy and priority. Maryland's education equity regulation proposed in December of 2018 states, "Each Maryland public school will provide every student equitable access to the educational rigor, resources, and supports that are designed to maximize the student's academic success and social/emotional well-being" [Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.01.06]. Achievement and opportunity gaps persist for student groups in the State, and the new accountability system provides information on successes and challenges in meeting the needs of all students.



How does Maryland measure equity?

- 1 Viewed by school and district:**
Equity data is shown for all schools and districts for the student groups they contain.
- 2 Each student group is uniquely compared to everyone else:**
Student groups are shown in comparison to students not within that specific student group and to the entire school population including that group.
- 3 Highlights gaps:**
Student groups not achieving academically, not making adequate progress toward academic achievement, and not achieving college or career readiness will be highlighted with larger equity gaps.

What equity information does the Report Card include?

DIFFERENCE IN PERFORMANCE: All points earned on school indicators are listed for comparison by all students, the selected student group, and students not in the selected student group.

STUDENT GROUPS: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino of any race, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Two or more races, Students with Disabilities, English learners, and Economically Disadvantaged.

EQUITY GAP: Difference between the percentage of total earned points used on report card by *students in group* and percentage of total earned points used on report card by *students not in that group*.



How are schools and districts supported to achieve educational equity?

The MSDE, having reviewed and analyzed the data, identified statewide strategies to address equity in Maryland Public Schools with a focus on schools serving high percentages of economically disadvantaged students. These strategies were developed with the input of local education agency leaders and through a review of best practices and current research. To improve school conditions for students with disabilities and English learners, MSDE provides technical assistance and support to local school systems and public agencies to expand inclusive learning opportunities.

In order to provide educational equity, implementation of high quality instruction aligned to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards must be delivered with fidelity to all student groups beginning in pre-kindergarten. This includes equitable access to instruction and instructional materials for students with specific learning needs, particularly students with disabilities, English learners, students who are gifted and talented, and students with low literacy and mathematics levels.