

THE IMPACT OF RACE & ETHNICITY IN SCHOOL

We are living day-by-day in a system and with policies that perpetuate disparities. Marginalized people are less likely to be the beneficiaries of the services needed. This disproportionality can be addressed by looking at key concepts through the equity lens: Access & Opportunity; Pursuing Diversity; Building Efficacy (be ourselves and still connect); Social Responsibility = Equitable Outcomes.

The educational system was initially created to teach white males and was built around a less diverse population. Today, our population is getting more and more diverse, and some students carry a legacy of historical injustices and beliefs. They also carry many other issues related to SDOH.

The culture of American society often operates in a system of established socialization patterns that lead to social injustice such as:

- Inequity among races leading to some populations having greater access to opportunities and resources
- There is a disproportionate representation of health concerns among races
- Access to community resources varies by location – such as school based health centers

DEFINITIONS

Equality: uniform access and using the same methods and tools for everyone; fairness; equal access

Equity: allows all students to have equal opportunities by addressing barriers and providing specialized resources and tools to those who need them

DATA

Percentage of children eligible for free or reduced price school meals by race/ethnicity (2018/19)



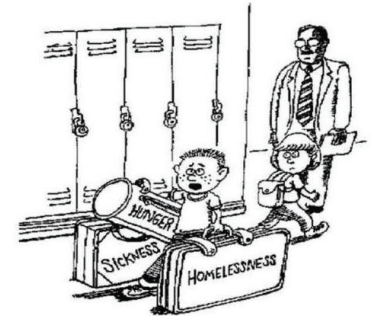
Source: 2020 Kids Count Report

4-year cohort graduation rate (2018/19)



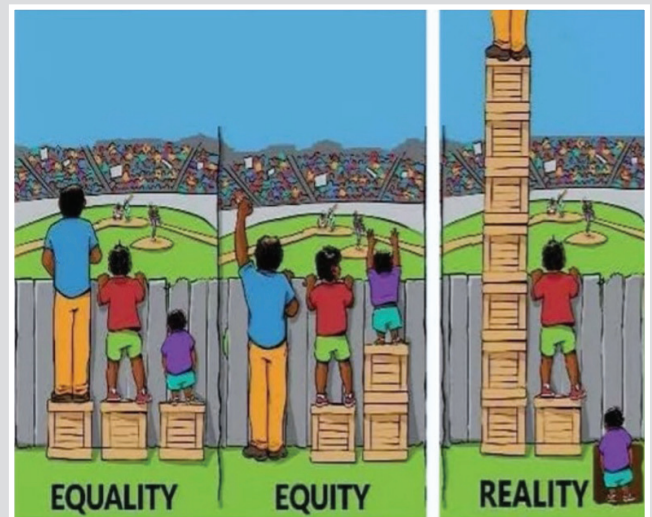
Source: 2020 Kids Count Report

“Could someone help me with these? I’m late for math class.”



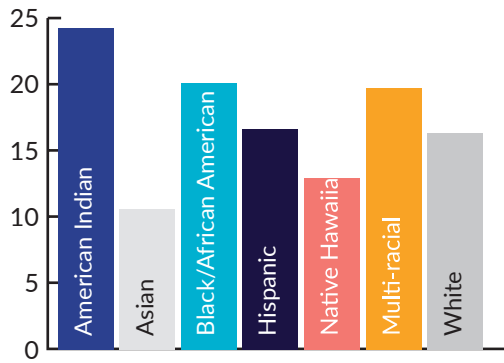
By Scott Spencer

EQUITY SHOULD BE OUR GOAL!



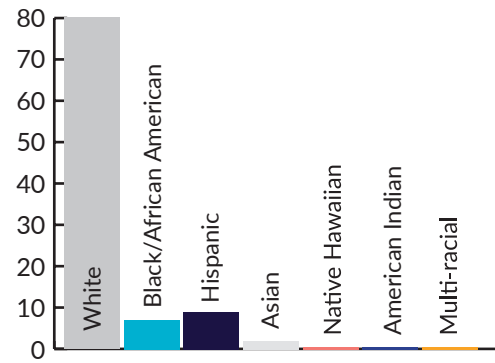
Source: Interaction Institute for Social Change

Special education classification (2018/19)



Source: 2020 Kids Count Report

Percentage of teachers in public elementary and secondary schools by race/ethnicity (2015/16)



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2018

HEALTH OFFICE CONSIDERATIONS

Help eliminate racism to optimize student health and learning by doing the following:

- Cultivate change in schools and school systems
- Review and address racism in bullying and violence policies
- Advocate for system changes that celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Engage school staff in yearly education on cultural diversity, discrimination and racism
- Encourage leadership to hire and retain staff with diverse backgrounds
- Provide evidence-based curriculum that teaches students and families how to recognize implicit bias and address racism
- Promote empathy by actively listening to lived experience of racism as told by students, families, colleagues, and community members
- Improve student and teacher interactions to increase students' sense of belonging and connectedness
- Celebrate Black History Month (Feb); Native American Heritage Month (Nov); and Hispanic History Month (9/15 – 10/15)
 - And don't stop celebrating all year long!

RESOURCES

STATE

Nebraska Department of Education, Equity - www.education.ne.gov/commissioner/equity

NATIONAL

Alliance for a Healthier Generation - www.healthiergeneration.org/our-work/business-sector-engagement/improving-access-to-address-health-equity

WeRNative - www.wernative.org

This material was developed as a compliment to the Project ECHO School Health series on Social Determinants of Health, Session 3: Race and Ethnicity's Impact in the School Setting, presented by Dr. Zainab Rida, Barry Thomas and Echohawk Lefthand, on February 10, 2021. Additional resources can be found here: www.childrensomaha.org/projectecho