

Surfacing LA's equity challenges and what more we need to know

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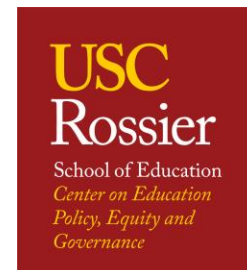




CENTER ON EDUCATION POLICY, EQUITY AND GOVERNANCE

*Building Pathways from Research to Policy and Practice in
Southern California and Beyond*

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Our Purpose Today

1. Introduce CEPEG
2. Present our current work on educational equity
3. Ask for your feedback to increase educational equity in Southern California districts

CEPEG Mission

To conduct rigorous, practice-relevant research that advances educational equity for California K-12 students – with an emphasis on greater Los Angeles – and to create partnerships that ensure education policies, practices, and governance structures are guided by evidence and careful analysis.

5 Key Commitments

1. ***Conduct Research with Consequence*** - investigate pressing problems & evaluate which policies/practices are most effective & why, with a strong focus on examining efforts that address systemic inequity.
2. ***Respond to the Field*** - respond to & partner with state, district, & community leaders & organizations to help solve problems of practice.
3. ***Make Research Accessible to Policymakers, Practitioners & Organizations*** - facilitate timely access to relevant data & analysis & build new intellectual & political pathways for good research to lead to better policy & practice.
4. **Broker relationships among educational organizations and practitioners** – initiate dialogues and build partnerships among educators, community leaders, and researchers to shape practice-relevant research and policy that advances education equity.
5. ***Train the Next Generation of Educational Leaders*** - leverage Center findings to train the next generation of practitioners & scholars committed to advancing equity through evidence-based policy.

Research Focus Areas

- Standards & Accountability Policy
- Public-Private Partnerships & Choice Policy
- Leadership, Finance & Governance
- Teacher & Instructional Reform Policy
- Descriptive Research Methods to Inform Equitable Policy

Recent Activities

Candidates for California's top school chief post call for more transparency in spending of state funds



Education Equity in L.A.

A Research Agenda in Service to Practice

Education Equity in L.A.

A Research Agenda in Service to Practice

A series of local convenings to ask:

- *What are the most important equity issues in Southern California districts?*
- *How can research support district leaders to inform equitable educational practice at the district level?*

Our conversation today will inform this work ...



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For today's dialogue:

- Table discussions
(Please note responses on the sheet in your folder)
- Whole group share-out
- We'll collect your question sheets

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1. What are the biggest challenges around equity in your district? How does your district define equity?
2. How are you currently trying to address these equity issues?
3. What one question do you have regarding these initiatives that would benefit from research? (i.e. Where do you need more information?)
4. How can we best use the results of these questions in ways that are actionable?

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Preliminary Findings: Biggest Equity Issues

1. Social and political factors outside schools contribute to inequity.
2. Nested inequalities produce multiple “gaps.”
3. Staff/teacher biases and beliefs impede equity
4. Teachers lack skills to implement equitable practices.
5. Districts lack sufficient data and resources to address these concerns.

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Preliminary Findings: Strategies

1. Districts use trainings to increase knowledge of equity and how to advance it.
2. Participants identified instructional approaches and frameworks as equity-promoting tools.
3. Districts hired, partnered with, or directed staff time to equity-promoting work.
4. Some districts established long-term structures to promote equity.

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Preliminary Findings: District Research Priorities

1. More, and more relevant, data to target interventions
2. Capacity to evaluate the equity work already underway
3. Proven models for addressing equity challenges

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Final Question (poll)

1. Open a browser on your phone or laptop.
2. Go to [slido.com](https://www.slido.com).
3. Code: equity
4. Click on your choice.

To vote, go to
slido.com

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Event code: Equity

Which is the biggest equity challenge in your district?

- a. Social and political forces outside the school
- b. Achievement gaps
- c. Opportunity/access gaps
- d. Discipline disparities
- e. Resources to address equity
- f. Staff / teacher beliefs
- g. Staff / teacher skill deficits to address equity; lack of cultural competence
- h. Other

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Next steps:

- Leverage convenings to **form partnerships**
- **Synthesize input** from the field into a research agenda responsive to educators and communities
- Share draft agenda with participants (YOU) for **feedback**
- **Share syntheses** of current findings on priorities identified by the field (YOU)
- Use these tools to **advance educational equity together** in Southern California

Stay in Touch



<https://cepeg.usc.edu/>

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