

Closing the Education Gap Provides Opportunity For All

Equity is defined as the quality of being fair, therefore education equity is education that is fair and inclusive. Education equity is the process of how we reach education equality. Understanding that each student has different needs and capabilities is the first step of education equity. Providing students with resources based off individual need will provide a better quality of education. Rather than give every student the same resources, we must focus on the individual needs of students in order to help elevate their academic achievement.

The Problem

- Research suggests, **students of color from low-income households underperform academically** compared to their wealthier counterparts.
- Low-income **students of color have less academic achievement due to barriers outside of school**, while **high-income white students excel academically due to opportunities from their socioeconomic status**
- High-poverty schools have lower academic performance which determines the amount of funding received.
- The number of **high poverty schools increased about 60 percent** from the year 2000, to 2011 in the US. In 2000, 1 out of every 8 schools, and in 2011, **1 out of every 5 were identified as a high-poverty.**
- In 2012, the **wealthiest 25 percent** of school districts spent **\$1,500 more per student**, than the poorest 25 percent of school districts.
- In the 2016-17 school year **1 out of every 4 schools in the US were considered high poverty**
- **Low-income students require more resources** because of learning barriers that are presented due to low socioeconomic status.
- If the education **gap is not closed** the education system will **continue to suffer**, along with low-income **students being left behind.**

Factors to Address

- Food Security
- Family Structure
- Home Environment
- Access to Internet
- Access to Technology
- Counseling vs. Disciplinary Action

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Solution

Educators and literacy leaders should prioritize students' strengths in order to build student confidence, and determine what resources are needed to make up the home-life-school gap.

Needed Collaborations & Resources:

- On Campus Food Pantries
- Free Mental Health Counselling
- Continued Education for Teachers
- Free Tutoring
- After School Computer Lab Access
- After School Outreach Programs

Call to Action: How YOU Can Help!

- Attend school board meetings to determine needs & barriers of local schools
- Write to your State Representatives advocating for education equity
- Volunteer with local organizations that are already involved & contributing to closing the education gap
 - Navigate STL Schools
 - Operation Food Search
 - College Bound

My Advocacy Efforts:

- Wrote to my Missouri Representatives on a state and local level to advocate for education equity, by asking for funding and resource support for local public school districts that are considered low-income.

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