

**Educational equity** is the condition of justice, fairness and inclusion in our systems of education so that all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potentials. The pursuit of educational equity recognizes the historical conditions and barriers that have prevented opportunity and success in learning for students based on their races, incomes, and other social conditions. Eliminating those structural and institutional barriers to educational opportunities requires systemic change that allows for distribution of resources, information and other support depending on the student's situation to ensure an equitable outcome.

*Equity is different from equality. Equity is a principle that is based upon justness and fairness, while equality demands everyone be treated at the same level.*

*The Minnesota Department of Education is leading for educational excellence and equity. Every day for every one.*



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## Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. **Prioritize closing the gaps:** Set and communicate the vision and targets for closing gaps.
2. **Start from within:** Focus on your leadership team first.
3. **Measure what matters:** Make data visible, use research and talk regularly about them.
4. **Go local:** Engage and develop leaders on every level.
5. **Follow the money:** Reallocate resources to students who need them most.
6. **Start early:** Invest in students early on - learn trouble spots and establish prevention strategies.
7. **Engage more deeply:** Monitor equitable implementation of standards. Know your classrooms. Tend your community partnerships.
8. **Value people:** Focus on teachers and leaders. Hire the best people for your most vulnerable students.
9. **Improve conditions for learning:** Focus on school culture, climate and social-emotional development. Connect teaching to the experiences, knowledge and needs of students.
10. **Give students options:** Empower students with high-quality options to support every student's success.

*Adapted from the Council for Chief State School Officers and the Florida Department of Education.*