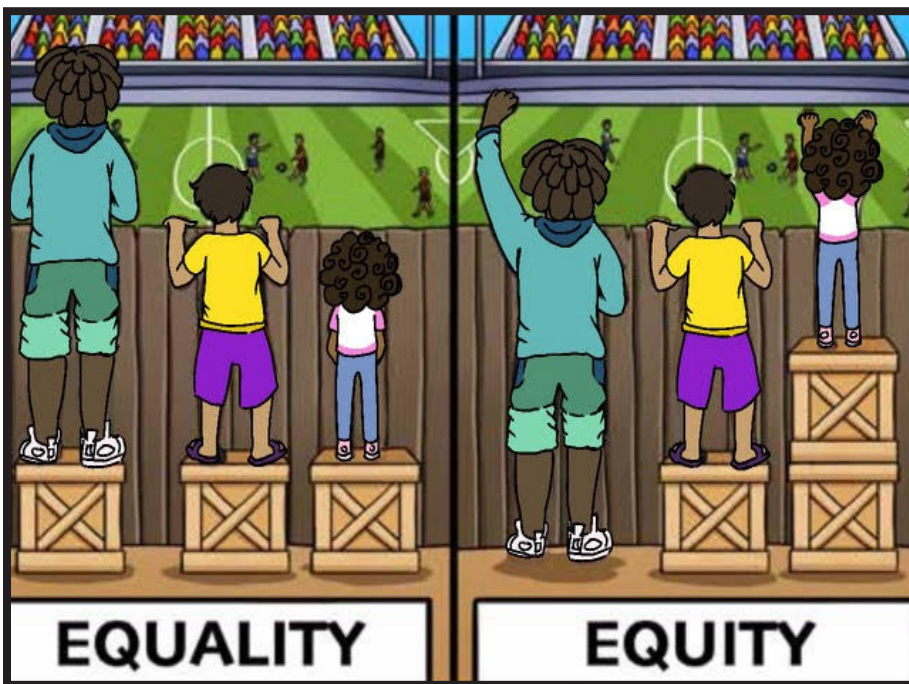# GIVING CHILDREN WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Educational equity should not be mistaken with the term "educational equality". Equality aims to provide the same resources and opportunities to all students, while equity recognizes students have different needs and require different resources and opportunities to be successful.

While educational equity is deeply complex, it's basic meaning is the pursuit of creating a system that caters to students of all kinds and develops their educational experience accordingly. This means that no matter what a student's background, language, race, economic profile, gender, learning capability, disability, or family history, all students can access the resources they need to achieve their goals.
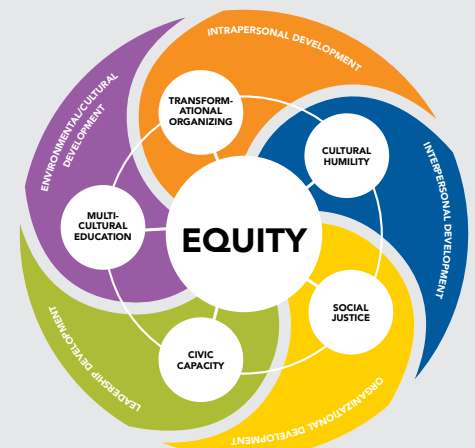
> " We must shift the question from "how can we fix these students" to "how can we [better] serve them" It doesn't mean we [shouldn't] speak hard truths. But it does mean **we try to ask more critical questions to have a deeper understanding of the issues**."
>
> **US Department of Education, 2021**

ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY LOOKS LIKE:

- **Creating opportunities** for students to find joy in learning that close gaps in opportunity, achievement and access

- Giving everyone the **chance to learn** in the way that best supports their learning needs

- Helping students become **more engaged** in their learning by validating their identities through literature and arts that reflect their community culture and lived experiences

- **Removing barriers** to entry for students from historically underserved or under resourced groups to access high-quality out of school time (OST) programs

- **Impacting the community** in positive ways, such as providing youth mentorship and empowerment

- Creating an overall **economic benefit** by preparing students to live choice filled lives, and becoming active citizens in the community

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

1 **They provide access to resources and opportunities**

2 **They address gaps in opportunity and achievement**

3 **They build skills and social networks**

4 **They provide a safe & supportive community environment**

" **A bright spot is the development of "out-of-school" programs.** These programs, in addition to providing safe havens and healthy places for children, contribute to student achievement in unique ways. The many hours spent in out-of-school activities provide teaching and learning opportunities that complement and enrich school day instruction. There is much to learn from [out-of-school programs] that can expand and **enhance the ways in which students are taught when they are in school.**"

US Department of Education, 2021