

Equity Review

The Iowa State Board of Education identified an equity goal related to closing racial opportunity gaps, and the Iowa Department of Education (IDE) is committed to providing more technical assistance to districts and schools to achieve this goal. To support these efforts, the Midwest Comprehensive Center (MWCC) is conducting a review of equity-related initiatives, practices, and policies across all IDE divisions and is working with IDE to address any equity gaps identified.

What are we doing?

- Conducting a document review and interviews with IDE staff and key stakeholders across the state
- Developing and presenting a findings report
- Codeveloping an action plan to address inequities in IDE policies, practices, and activities
- Providing thought partnership and coaching to IDE during plan implementation

Expected outcomes

- IDE has improved organizational structures and processes to identify and address inequities in its policies, programs, and activities.

Implementation Science

To take advantage of the opportunity afforded by Every Student Succeeds Act implementation, the IDE Division of Learning and Results is focusing on building staff capacity to use implementation science—a research-based framework that aims to improve policy implementation. During the past year, MWCC facilitated trainings and developed resources on this topic for the division. This year, MWCC is deepening this work by offering intensive support to select IDE projects.

What are we doing?

- Providing facilitation, thought partnership, and resources to help teams deepen their use of implementation science
- Sharing effective practices at quarterly division trainings
- Facilitating communication and knowledge management for the benefit of all projects within the division

Expected outcomes

- IDE staff report that projects throughout the division begin to or further use implementation science.
- IDE staff report that peer learning and resource sharing create an improved sense of common understanding.
- IDE staff report that implementation science leads to efficiency and fidelity in project implementation.