Introductions

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Agenda

- Introduction and Framing

- ARE Diagnostic Blueprints - Presentation from Education Resource Strategies

- Q&A

- Using Data to Inform State-Based Advocacy, A Conversation with Julia Zammith of Rodel

- Q&A

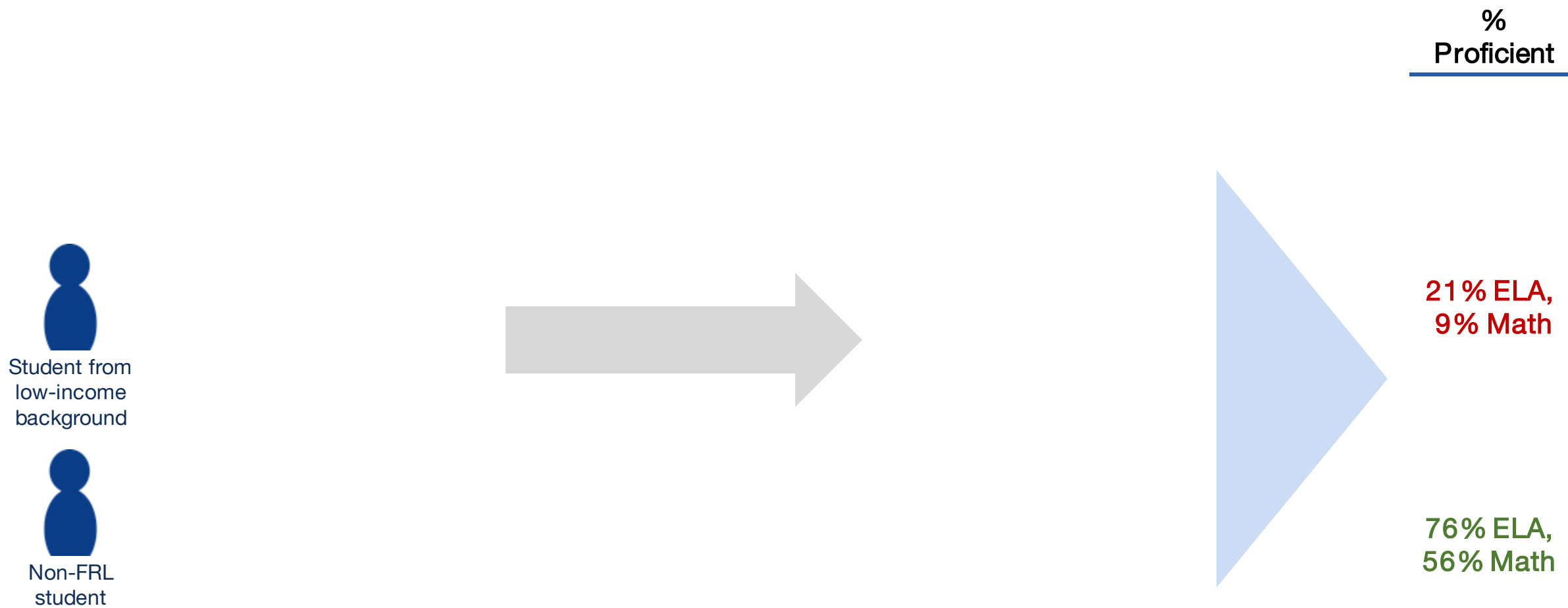- Closing & Next Steps

Learning Objectives

Objectives: *By the end of the webinar participants will....*

1. Have a deeper understanding of what data they need to collect in order to understand the state of resource equity in their community, and how to begin analyzing said data to make determinations about how equitable their community's school funding formula is

2. Know the most likely drivers behind inequitable school funding allocations in their community

3. Have multiple examples of how they can use data to inform their resource equity advocacy efforts

4. Know how to avoid common pitfalls and overcome common obstacles in using data to advance advocacy efforts

What is resource equity?

How much districts spend ***AND how well*** they use resources to support student experiences

Resource equity focuses on <u>student experiences</u> which drive student outcomes

% Proficient

Student from low-income background

21% ELA, 9% Math

Non-FRL student

76% ELA, 56% Math

Note: Illustrative data

Dimensions of Resource Equity

SCHOOL FUNDING

TEACHING QUALITY & DIVERSITY

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP QUALITY & DIVERSITY

EMPOWERING, RIGOROUS CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME & ATTENTION

POSITIVE & INVITING SCHOOL CLIMATE

STUDENT SUPPORTS & INTERVENTION

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

LEARNING-READY FACILITIES

DIVERSE CLASSROOMS & SCHOOLS

The Full ARE Toolkit

Learn about the 10 dimensions
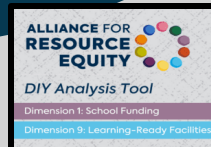The Education Combination paper introduces our framework and outlines each dimension

Dig deeper
Consider underlying causes of challenges

Identify decision-makers
Determine WHO should be the target of advocacy efforts

Assess strengths & weaknesses
Understand the current state of education resource equity, both strengths and weaknesses

Analyze data
Conduct analyses to assess state of resource equity

Make the case
Create clear and compelling messaging to move your audience to action

About Education Resource Strategies (ERS)

ERS empowers school system leaders to make transformative shifts in **resources, structures, and practices** so that all students — especially those with the greatest learning needs and those furthest from opportunity — attend a school where they can learn and thrive. We **partner with district teams, expand leaders' knowledge and skills, and share lessons and tools with the field**.

Catherine Premont
Manager

Rebel Todhunter
Associate

- **District Work Jul 2022 - Dec 2023**
- **Previous District Work**
- **State/Network Jul 2022 – Dec 2023**
- Previous State Work

Introducing new additions to the ARE toolkit

Educators, school leaders, advocates, and families have been able to **use the ARE toolkit** to start conversations, create shared understandings, and build action plans together

The **DIY Resource Equity Analysis Tools are new components of the ARE toolkit** intended to support system leaders in **assessing the state of resource equity in their system**

DIAGNOSTIC BLUEPRINTS

Learn about the types of resource equity analyses

These 10 blueprints overview the types of resource equity analyses that districts can conduct to better understand the state of resource equity in their system. Each blueprint overviews analyses aligned to one of the 10 dimensions.

DIY ANALYSIS TOOLS

Analyze your own data and see the results

These four analysis tools support users to conduct the resource equity analyses themselves. They include instructions for inputting data, embedded formulas to calculate meaningful metrics, and guiding questions to help make meaning of results.

ALLIANCE FOR RESOURCE EQUITY

Diagnostic Blueprint

**Dimension 1:
School Funding**

On the following slides, we share the types of data analyses that districts can conduct to assess resource equity for this dimension.

Key Question for this Dimension:

Does the funding system distribute adequate

funding based on student needs and enable flexible

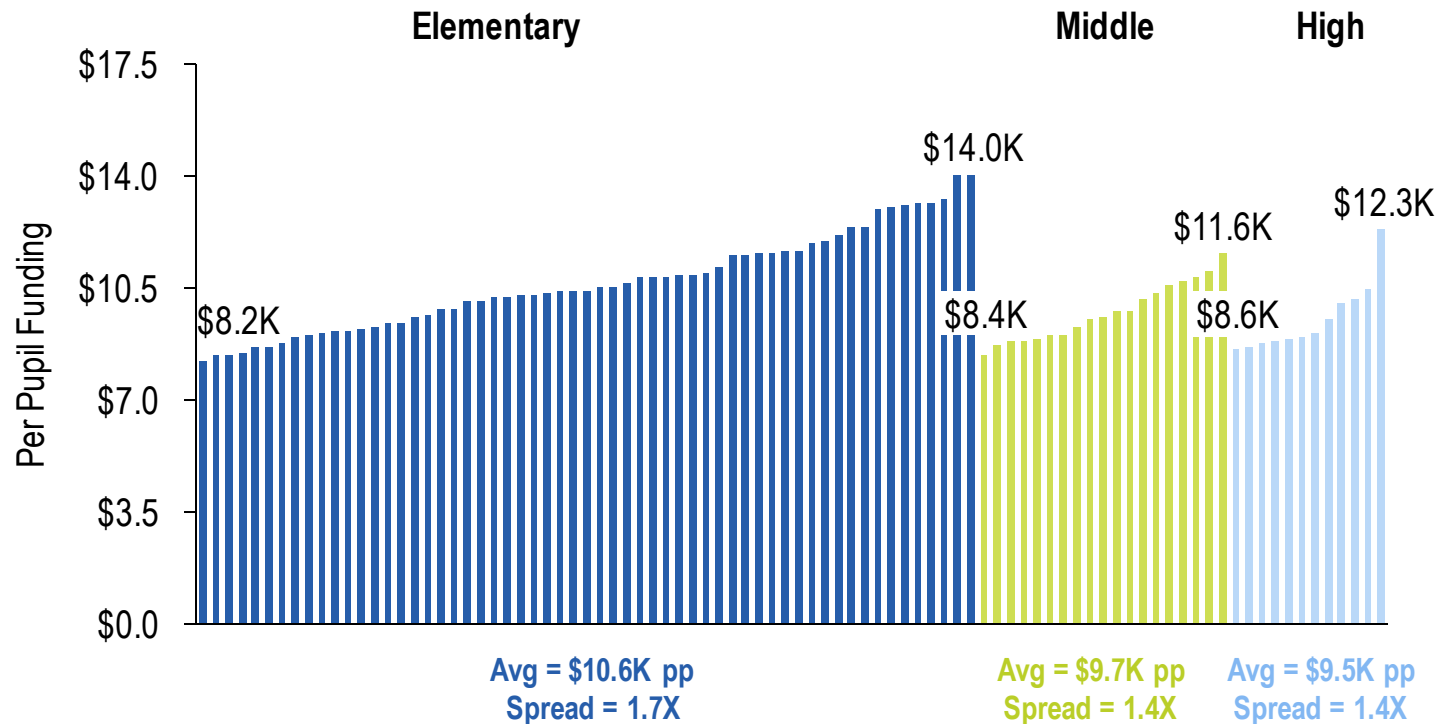use of funds in ways that are clearly understood?
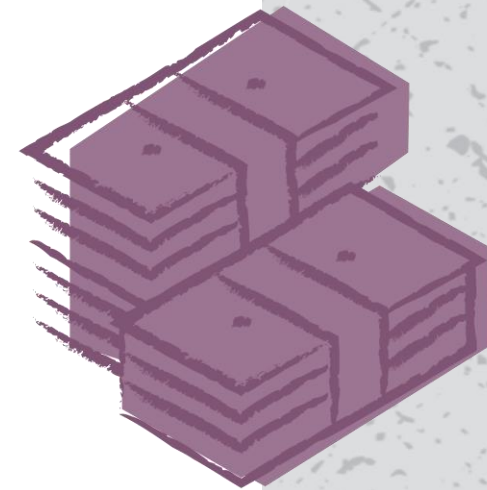
SCHOOL FUNDING

Looking at per pupil funding across school levels is a helpful starting place for understanding overall variation

🏫 For example, in District X …

School-Reported Per Pupil Funding by School Level

Elementary   **Middle**   **High**

$14.0K

$8.2K

$8.4K $11.6K

$8.6K $12.3K

Per Pupil Funding

$17.5
$14.0
$10.5
$7.0
$3.5
$0.0

Avg = $10.6K pp
Spread = 1.7X

Avg = $9.7K pp
Spread = 1.4X

Avg = $9.5K pp
Spread = 1.4X

For example, in District X:

- On average, elementary schools receive more funding than middle schools and high schools. This made sense to District X because they had recently invested in early literacy efforts.

- However, there is significant variation within school levels. For example, the highest funded elementary school in the district is receiving 1.7X more than the lowest funded elementary school.

- After seeing this, district leaders decided they needed to understand WHY this variation was happening and its primary drivers.

It's okay for school funding to vary! Variation is not necessarily a bad thing. The question is: Is the variation *strategic* (aligned with district's goals) and *equitable* (higher-need schools receive additional dollars)?

Here are some of the most common drivers of variation in school funding. ***Our analysis will guide you through the first two drivers. We encourage you to explore the others too.**	
School Size*	Smaller schools often receive additional resources to cover their higher overhead costs (e.g., one Assistant Principal per ES regardless of school size).
Student Need*	Budgeting formulas that distribute additional costs to schools to meet specific student needs (e.g., allocations based on the % Economically Disadvantaged, % SWD, % MLL).
School Type	Certain school types/designations may receive additional resources (e.g., schools with dual language programming).
Enrollment Projections	If fall budget true-up doesn't occur, over-projected schools will receive fewer resources than they should, and under-projected schools will receive more.
School Utilization	Schools with many empty seats often require additional resources to pay for required upkeep.
Teacher Compensation	Schools with more experienced and highly compensated teachers spend more than those with more novice teachers, even when they have same number of positions.
Vacancies	Some schools may have difficulty filling positions meaning that these schools will typically spend less than their budget.
Ad-hoc Exceptions	Districts often make one-off exceptions to the stated allocation rules/formulas and grant individual school requests for an additional position or resource. We call this the "squeaky wheel syndrome" where schools who complain to the right people in the

ALLIANCE FOR RESOURCE EQUITY

DIY Analysis Tool

Dimension 1: School Funding

Dimension 9: Learning-Ready Facilities

Stay in the loop!

Check out our website and join our monthly mailing list for education resource equity news, tools, and events.

Subscribe to our newsletter and find today's resources (plus more!) at:

https://educationresourceequity.org/

Join Us For Our Next Sessions!

RESOURCE EQUITY IN ACTION

DEVELOPING YOUR RESOURCE EQUITY

MESSAGE

ALLIANCE FOR RESOURCE EQUITY

Wednesday, March 13th, 2-3pm EST

https://edtrust.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpcemupzItGtNi0FNQvz0mibQTdIyNTR0C#/

RESOURCE EQUITY IN ACTION

MEASURING IMPACT AND MAINTAINING

MOMENTUM

ALLIANCE FOR RESOURCE EQUITY

Wednesday, March 20th, 2-3pm EST

Meeting Registration - Zoom

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https://forms.office.com/r/AkF6cRSmC1

Resource Equity in Action:
Leveraging Data for Advocacy

Partners

Education Resource Strategies is a national nonprofit that partners with district, school, and state leaders to transform how they use resources (people, time, and money) so that every school prepares every child for tomorrow — no matter their race or income. Since 2004, ERS has worked with more than 40 school systems and states to improve resource equity for students by analyzing data, exploring trade-offs, planning strategically, building consensus, and monitoring progress.

The Education Trust is a national nonprofit that works to close opportunity gaps that disproportionately affect students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. Through research and advocacy, EdTrust supports efforts that expand excellence and equity in education from preschool through college; increase college access and completion, particularly for historically underserved students; engage diverse communities dedicated to education equity; and increase political and public will to act on equity issues.