# Welcome!



# **Achievement Network**



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# Start with Vision: Closing the Gap for Equitable Literacy Instruction



# Meet your facilitators



Jay Tillman is a Director of School Support for The Achievement Network and native of St. Louis.. Prior to joining ANet, he served as teacher and leader in Chicago Public Schools and Central Texas.



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# We've supported nearly 1000 schools and more than 100 systems, serving 340,000 students across 29 states and D.C.



#### Through our network...

- We draw on data to share best practices.
- We connect schools and systems to learn from each other.
- We continuously improve our support through the insights of highest performing schools.





#### **OUR MISSION**

Achievement Network works alongside school leadership teams to strengthen their school-wide practice and culture of using learning standards and achievement data to get breakthrough results for students in historically underserved communities.

#### **OUR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY VISION**

A guarantee that educators engage all students with meaningful support that they need to reach and exceed a common standard through high-quality instruction.

#### **OUR COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM**

Prioritizing and advocating for the eradication of-racist and oppressive systems and structures throughout the educational landscape by building culture, practices, and leadership skills that guarantee equitable instruction for all students.

# **Invitations**

- Be present
- Be brave
- Participate actively
- Learn from each other, teach each other
- Monitor your air-time

- Seek to hear everyone's voice
- Suspend disbelief
- Aim for progress, not perfection
- Anchor in the bright spots
- Respect opposing views and opinions



## **Objectives**

- Gain definitional clarity about literacy equity in the classroom
- Reflect about where your leadership is in implementing equitable instructional practices.
   Reflect on your school/system's equity journey
- Experience a process with developing or refining your current equity vision for literacy
- Create system's next steps in enacting your vision for equitable instruction with students at the center





# Agenda

# Defining Equitable Instruction

Reflecting on your school/district's equity journey and current state

Building or Refining your Vision

**Closing and Next Steps** 



### **Grounding in Our Beliefs**

- Educational Equity: A guarantee that educators engage ALL students with meaningful support that they need to reach and exceed a common standard through high-quality instruction.
- Institutional Equity: Leadership, practices and culture that guarantee educators engage ALL students with meaningful support they need to meet and exceed a common standard through high-quality instruction.

Reflect on your own vision and capacity to mobilize your classroom, school, district or community around that vision, and consider:

- Which aspect of equity is a strength and why?
- When you review these definitions, where do you see strength in your classroom, school, district or community?
   What would you want to enhance? Be specific.



# LITERACY



Equitable
Instruction
Across Content
Areas



Hold high expectations; all students have strengths, knowledge, & can learn at grade level



Effective foundational skills instruction

In literacy, this means instruction and curriculum aligned to the shifts and standards:



Ongoing, coherent learning experiences that build knowledge of words and the world



Engagement in culturally relevant, complex text and grade-level texts/ questions/tasks

A majority of time spent reading, writing, speaking about appropriately complex texts



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# Reflecting on Current State



## Where have we experienced success in our equity journey?

When has your district, school, or classroom successfully...

- 1: **Recognized** inequities in your system?
- 2: **Responded** to inequities in your system?
- 3: **Redressed** inequities in your system?

#### Recognize

biases and inequities in self, others, curriculum, and practices. Think → Why is this problem happening?

#### Redress

biases and inequities in the long term. Think → Disrupt

#### Respond

to biases and inequities in the immediate term.

Think → Action

#### **Create & Sustain**

a bias-free and equitable learning environment. Think → Impact

#### **Apply**

an equity cognitive frame to individual and institutional practices.

Think → Continuous Improvement and Culture

Equity Literacy Institute. "Equity Literacy:

Definition and Abilities." 2021.

What can we learn and carry forward from these past successes?



### Inequities in the ELA classroom

Zoom in and think about the ELA classrooms across your district, school or classroom and reflect:

 What is the most urgent inequity students are currently facing in ELA classrooms?





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# Building or refining your vision



# **Equity: Envision It So You Can See It**

- [3 min] **Jot down concrete examples** of what an equitable education environment would look like, sound like, and feel like to students, families, and staff.
- [8 min] **Share out with a partner or in small groups**, looking for commonalities and new ideas to expand your thinking.
- [7 min] **Share with the whole group** ideas you heard that will help all of us.

	Looks Like	Feels Like	Sounds Like
Students			
Families			
Staff Members			



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# Closing & Next Steps



## **Technical and Adaptive Challenges**

Technical Challenges	Adaptive Challenges	
<ul> <li>Easy to identify</li> <li>Often lend themselves to quick and easy (cut and dried) solutions</li> <li>Often can be solved by an authority or expert</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More difficult to identify the root of the problem</li> <li>Require changes in values, beliefs, roles, relationships, &amp; approaches to work. Solutions often mean changes to habits, routines, ways of being.</li> <li>People with the problem do the work of solving it</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Require change in just one or a few places; often contained within categories of work</li> <li>People are generally receptive to technical solutions; they "feel" easier</li> <li>Solutions can often be implemented quickly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Require change in numerous places; usually cross organizational boundaries</li> <li>People often resist even acknowledging adaptive challenges</li> <li>"Solutions" require experiments and new discoveries; they can take a long time to implement and require motivation/investment by those implementing them.</li> </ul>	

What will be your greatest adaptive challenge with continuing to implement this work? What supports will you need?



### **Completing Vision and Next Steps**

We believe at <X> School District...

**Equitable instruction at <X> school district means...** 

You will be able to see us living out our vision when we...

Create an overall belief statement and complete the rest of the table



# We value your feedback!



Thank you!







# For more information, contact:

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ACHIEVEMENT NETWORK Learning. Together.