

Association of Alaska School Boards 2019 Conference Equity and Policy

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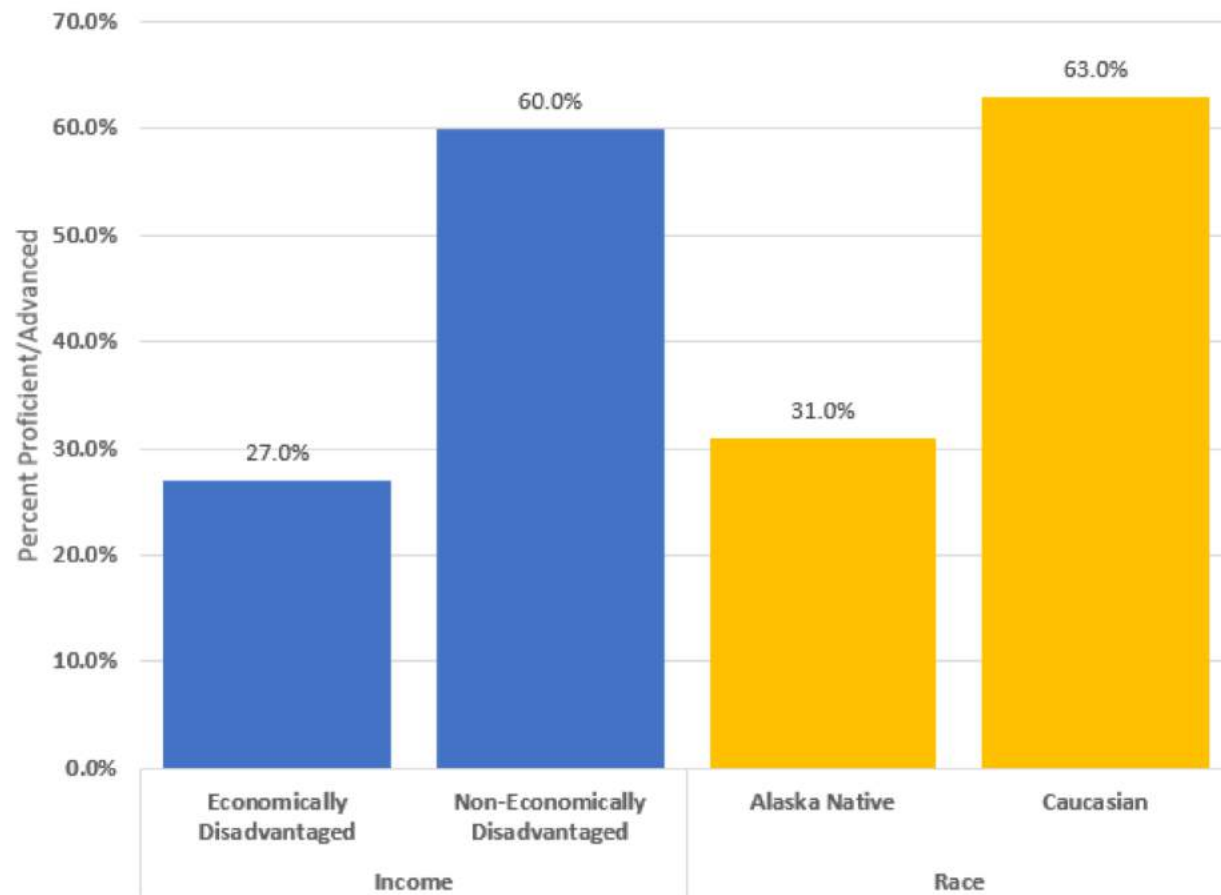


Objectives

- What does equity mean in relation to school board policy?
- Look at data through equity lens
- Considering the school boards roles and responsibilities in relation to Equity and Policy
- Leave with ideas on how to your role on the board can help educational equity

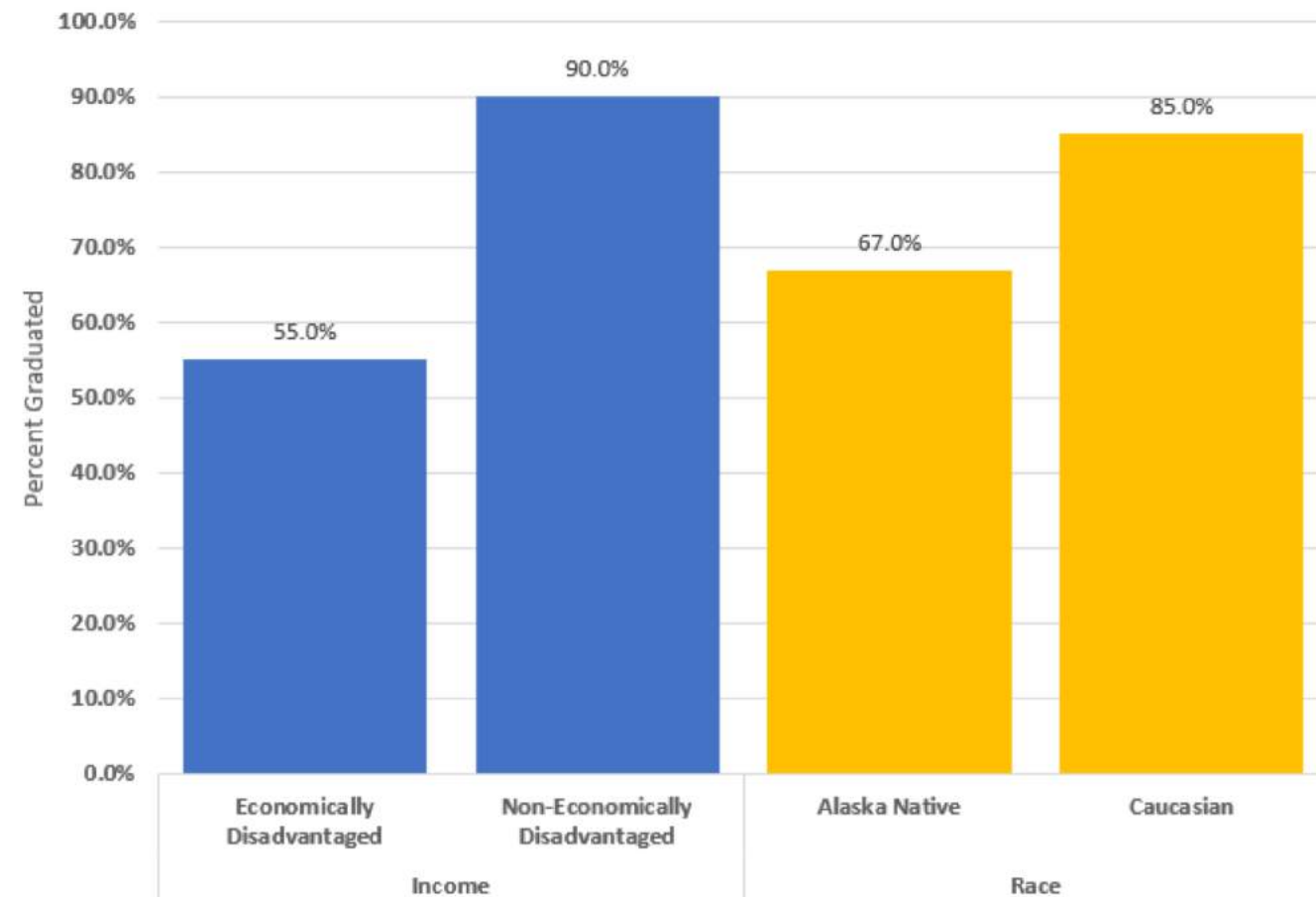
Academic Outcomes for STEPS Communities by Income/Race

2019 PEAKS ELA Proficiency for Grades 3-9



Region-wide, PEAKS ELA proficiency is **47%** for grades 3-9.

4-Year Graduation Rate in 2018



Region-wide, 4-year graduation rate is **77%**.

Educational Equity

- . Raising the achievement of all students, while
- . Narrowing the gaps between the highest and lowest performing students, and
- . Eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality of which student groups occupy the highest and lowest achievement categories.
- . It is not a program or initiative and does not equate to “doing diversity work”.
- . *Glenn E. Singleton, Courageous Conversations About Race*

Deficit thinking paradigm

When operating from a deficit thinking paradigm, educators and policy makers believe that culturally and linguistically diverse students fail in school because of their own deficiencies or because their families don't value education, not because of social inequalities, unfair school policies, or differential treatment in the classroom.

There is an ill-informed belief that a student's failures are attributable to the student's lack of intellectual ability, linguistic inferiority, or family dysfunction. This deficit perspective suggests that efforts to improve academic achievement should be focused on "fixing" students (i.e. improving test-taking skills) rather than shifting the school culture to support intellectual capacity building.

Zaretta Hammond, Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain, pg. 59



What are some of the words you heard in the definition of what equity is and is not?

What are some of the data points you see in your district?

Considering the primary roles of the school board:

- Reviewing, developing and adopting policy
- Setting and approving district budget (allocate resources)
- Reviewing and adopting curriculum and instruction
- Hiring and evaluating the superintendent

What comes to mind as you think about the board's responsibilities and equity?

Is this in line with what you are seeing in your schools?

As School board members, what should you consider as your role in equity?

What are some of the ways you can help your board address equity?

Moving Forward

- What are some of the key issues on equity and policy that could be put forward to discuss on the board agenda?
- How might we (AASB) help you and other School Boards develop their capacity around this work?

Write your ideas on a sticky note.

Thank you – Quayana - Gunalchéesh - Haw'aa!

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