Framing the Equity Conversation for Today and Our Future

AASB Equity in Education & Winter Boardsmanship Academy
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Learner Outcomes:

- Receive examples of helpful norms to have in place for racial equity discussions.
- Gain an understanding of current system inequities in the context of Alaska history.
- Develop a common understanding of terminology used in racial equity discussions.
- Increase participants’ ability to apply an equity lens to this work.
Norms for Racial Equity Discussions:

- Speak Your Truth Respectfully
- Stay Engaged
- Expect to Experience Discomfort at Some Level
- Be Aware of Intent; Own Your Impact
- Accept and Expect Non-Closure
- Maintain a Learner Stance and Remain Open to New Thinking
- Recognize This is About Enhancing Your Equity Lens
Smarter Balance Results by Ethnicity:

- African Amer.: 33% (3rd Gr. ELA), 32% (7th Gr. Math)
- Asian: 59% (3rd Gr. ELA), 75% (7th Gr. Math)
- Hispanic: 43% (3rd Gr. ELA), 41% (7th Gr. Math)
- Mixed Race: 65% (3rd Gr. ELA), 58% (7th Gr. Math)
- Native Amer.: 39% (3rd Gr. ELA), 26% (7th Gr. Math)
- Pacific Is.: 46% (3rd Gr. ELA), 48% (7th Gr. Math)
- White: 76% (3rd Gr. ELA), 73% (7th Gr. Math)
Disproportionate Discipline
Student Suspension Rates (Grades 6-12)
Impact of Income and Race
Percent Meeting Standard in Mathematics (Grades 3-8 Combined)

2014 Distribution
- Low Income (FRL) and Student of Color: 42%
- Low Income (FRL) and NOT Student of Color: 66%
- Student of Color and NOT Low Income (FRL): 70%
- NOT Low Income (FRL) and NOT Student of Color: 89%

2014 Percent Meeting Standard in Mathematics by Beneficiary Group:
- Low Income (FRL) and Student of Color: 42%
- Low Income (FRL) and NOT Student of Color: 66%
- Student of Color and NOT Low Income (FRL): 70%
- NOT Low Income (FRL) and NOT Student of Color: 89%
“The racial composition of any American city [town, village] is a product of its history.”

(Matt Novak, White Utopia: Oregon’s Racist History)
1733-1867: Russian colonization/occupation of Alaska

- Wanted access to timber, hunting/trapping, fishing.
- Exposed Alaska Natives to diseases they had no immunity to (influenza, dysentery, typhoid, respiratory diseases diphtheria, mumps, measles, whopping cough, scarlet fever).
  - 1835-40: Smallpox killed between 1/4 to 2/3 of all villagers.

- Nearly 90% of Aleuts perished between 1740-1830
  - Converted to Russian Orthodox faith as a means of survival; the church advocated for members and provided protections.
Russian attitude towards Native populations (1741-1867):

- Considered Alaska Natives to be savages who should be either civilized or conquered. Distinguished between:
  - Civilized, or conquered peoples – who were accorded some civil rights.
  - Uncivilized, or those who had successfully resisted Russian dictates – who had no civil rights.

- Military conflict with Alaska Natives was a constant – the Russians were successful in coastal areas with their naval power, but not on the interior.
American attitude towards Native populations (1867 - >):

- US government defined it’s mission as providing assistance to move Alaska Natives out of their low status into higher levels.
- This was to be done by assimilation through European education and religious belief systems.
  - Missionaries at this time were both government officials and religious figures with an agenda to civilize and convert.
- No treaties were signed with Alaska Natives. Had less status than AI populations.
Alaska Governance Periods

- **1867-84**: Upon purchase from Russia, it became the Department of Alaska
  - The US Army (1867-77), US Dept. of the Treasury (1877-79) and the US Navy (1879-84) provided federal oversight.

- **1884-1912**: The District of Alaska
  - US Presidents appointed a Governor and other officials to oversee the District.

- **1912-1958**: The Territory of Alaska
  - US President appointed the Governor; Citizens were allowed to elect a legislature with limited powers to pass laws and impose taxes. Federal government maintained most of the control.

- **1959**: The State of Alaska
  - Gained the same rights as citizens in all other states.
  - Many federal programs were transferred to State control.
1867-77: The US Army was the pre-eminent federal department in AK
- No law authorizing them to administer or enforce civil laws.
- Enforced regulations prohibiting anyone but Alaska Natives from hunting and trapping fur-bearing animals (populations had been decimated by Russian trappers).
- Officially, tried to suppress the sale of liquor to Alaska Natives and protect them from abuse; privately, many officers and soldiers sold the liquor and abused them.

1879-83: The US Navy was the pre-eminent federal department in AK
- Improved relations by hiring Alaska Native leaders as police – were better able to reconcile differences between the Native and non-Native cultures.
- Reduced friction by having soldiers on ships and limiting interaction between groups.
The military set the tone for relations between Alaska Natives and White settlers.

- Friction between the cultures was often violent and characterized by group punishment for the actions of individuals.

1880’s-1890’s: Settlers with fishing, mining, canning and fur trading interests want military protection from Alaska Natives opposed to the taking of their resources and the intrusions on their traditional lands.

- AN’s were blocked from access to land and waters needed for food resources.

WWI and aftermath: Airplanes became part of military arsenal. AK Spruce was the preferred material. Increased strategic importance of AK due to aviation routes over the Arctic to support supply and transport routes.
Role of the Military in Alaska History

- Pre and Post-WWII: The military became the driving economic force in AK.
  - By 1930, Alaska Natives were no longer the majority due to the military presence.
  - The Black population in Alaska fluctuates based on the number of military personnel assigned.
- Alaska Highway construction and efforts to fortify military spaces brought the first large influx of African-Americans to Alaska (about 3,000 worked on the highway).
- Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner (son of a Confederate General) commanded the troops building the Alaska Highway, and was responsible for sending the Aleuts to poorly provisioned internment camps with rampant sickness and death due to the conditions.
  - He denied Black soldiers the equivalent gear and provisions of White soldiers when working in extreme winter conditions. Frostbite was common and some froze to death.
1948: Military desegregated by Pres. Truman

- Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG), formed during WWII with mostly Alaska Native volunteers who patrolled the coast, was incorporated into the AK National Guard and training was provided to Alaska Native NCO’s (sergeants).

Dept. of Defense operates hundreds of military installations, employing thousands of service men and women.

- Operated the long-distance phone and telegraph service until 1971.
- NORAD radar system, supporting networks, radio, and TV came to areas where only Alaska Natives lived. Created cash economies and jobs.
- Inter-racial marriages between service men and Native woman created new cultural elements to villages.
- Retired military officers currently play a big role in the Alaska political landscape.
Alaska Land/Property Issues

1867 Treaty of Cession with Russia: Congress given authority to resolve the issue of Native lands - but they did not.

1874 Mining Act: Allowed only “citizens” and “immigrants of good standing” (European) to stake claims. Mining was the primary revenue source at this time.

- AN claims were denied because they were not Alaska citizens.
- Impeded Alaska Native ability to accumulate wealth.

1890-1900: Gold Rush Era – Created opportunities for jobs/revenue.

- Alaska Natives controlled the Chilkoot Pass (a trade route), and tried to tax miners who were using the trail, just as they taxed AN groups who used it. US Army intervened on the side of the miners.
- Alaska Natives prevented from exercising property rights.
US Dept. of the Interior has had a huge impact on AK through the Bureaus of: Indian Affairs, Land Management, Fish & Wildlife, National Park Service, and Railroads.

1899: Congress established Railroad rights of way on federal lands and allowed the RR companies to claim those areas.

1915: Tanana Chiefs protested the taking of AN lands for railroads without consent or compensation.

1935: Congress authorized the Tlingit and Haida to sue the US over tribal lands taken over by the US when it purchased Russian interests in Alaska.
1936: Congress authorized the Sec. of Interior to set up reservations for AN’s if they wanted one (currently one reservation in AK).

1960: Statehood forced the issue as federal, state and Alaska Native interests were all claiming the same lands.

1966: Sec. of the Interior instituted a land freeze until Natives’ claims were resolved.

1969: Oil discovered on the North Slope. The pipeline that would be necessary to build would run across disputed land and forced the land claims issue.
1971 – Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act (ANLCS)

- 12 Native corporations were established in various parts of the state to administer the settlement.
- A 13th corporation was added for Alaska Natives living outside of Alaska.
- Native village corporations were established to administer the settlement in individual communities.
- Each Alaska Native living at the time of the settlement became a stockholder in a regional and village corporation.
- The new corporations became major elements in Alaska politics.
Jim Crow in Alaska

- The US imposed a legal system that dispossessed Native people from their traditional land.
- Law was used to limit, undermine and diminish status, power and the rights of AN’s.
- Wages were higher for Whites doing the same jobs/work as Alaska Natives.
- White hire preferences for business, government and community jobs were standard practice.
- Natives were not allowed to testify in civil courts against White people.
- Society and public spaces were segregated with “White Only” signs.
- Native children were not allowed to attend school with White children.
1912: Presbyterian missionaries in SE Alaska form the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) and Sisterhood (ANS).

- Intent was to promote White, American culture among Alaska Natives.
- By-laws prohibited participating in potlatches, speaking Native languages or practicing Native religions.
- Tlingits and Haida shifted the focus to civil rights once the organizations were established.

1915: Native Citizenship Bill (AK legislature)  To be eligible, one had to:

- Have local school teachers confirm that all traditional Native customs had been abandoned.
- Secure the endorsement of 5 White citizens that they had “severed all tribal relationships and adopted the habits of a civilized life.”
- Sign a court certificate verifying they were not living with their tribe.
Significant Events in Alaska Civil Rights History

- **1924**: Indian Citizenship Act (US Congress)
  - Granted citizenship to all Native Americans and Alaska Natives
- **1925**: Alaska Voter’s Literacy Act (Territorial Legislature)
  - Required voters to be able to read and write in English.
  - Intent was to limit the opportunity to vote and was based on assumptions of racial inferiority and a desire to maintain a subordinate role for minorities in society.
- **1936**: Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) provisions were extended to AK.
  - Intent to reduce loss of Native lands and create a new political status for Alaska Natives so they had equal legal standing with AI’s. Was a rejection of US assimilation policy.
Significant Events in Alaska Civil Rights History

1945: Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act
- Addressed discrimination in public accommodations and facilities.
- Was the first of its kind in any American territory or state.
- Guaranteed equal accommodations in: hotels, inns, restaurants, taverns, road houses, soda fountains, barber shops, beauty parlors, theatres and all “amusements”.
- Criminalized any printed or written sign indicating a discrimination on racial grounds.

1965: Federal Voting Rights Act
- AK was not a covered jurisdiction under the Act until 1975, when the Justice Dept. determined AK engaged in discriminatory voting procedures related to Alaska Natives who do not speak English as a first language.
- AK needs pre-clearance from the Justice Dept. for all voting laws and election districts (redistricting).
History of Alaska Education

1867: Russians closed the schools they had established for Native children in Kodiak and the Aleutians, except for one Russian Orthodox school in Sitka.

- The US made no provisions for education in the Department of Alaska until 1870.

1880: Sitka established first segregated schools – 1 each for NA’s and non-Natives.

- Boarding school and home system disrupted family and village life – children sent far away for months or years (some in OK and PA).

- Purpose was to assimilate Native children into American culture.

- Children as young as 7 yrs. were forbidden to use their Native language, engage in any cultural activities, or wear their Native dress. Corporal punishment and abuse were regularly used to enforce these rules.
History of Alaska Education

- **1884** – Congress passed the Organic Law directing the Sec. of the Interior to provide education to AK children without regard to race (unusual provision for the time).
  - Also in 1884 – The BIA Commissioner of Education banned Native languages from being spoken in Native schools and established an English-only policy.
- **1885-95**: Sheldon Jackson, Presbyterian leader, who oversaw the opening and operation of schools, encouraged different Protestant churches to open missions and schools in different regions. These were predominantly boarding or day schools.
  - By 1892 there were 17 government-supported schools, 14 church-operated schools, and 3 schools for non-Natives in Sitka, Juneau and Douglas.
History of Alaska Education

- **1900:** Congress passed legislation allowing towns to incorporate and provided for local control of schools and financing of operations through local funds.
  - Federal funds (25% of license fees and revenue from timber sales); territorial funds (portion of fisheries, cold storage, and license fees); local (real and personal property taxes and every male between 21-40 yrs. of age was annually assessed $5 for schools).

- **1905:** Congress passed the Nelson Act, which created racially segregated AK schools, dividing “white children and children of mixed blood who lead a civilized life” from Eskimos, Aleuts, and Indians.

- **1906:** First secondary school opened for Natives (vocational school in Sitka)

- **By 1912:** Incorporated towns supported schools for non-Natives.
History of Alaska Education

1913: Territorial legislature passed a compulsory education law.
   - Disrupted Native traditional subsistence cycle (children not free to move to spring or fall hunting camps)

1915: Territorial Board of Education composed of the Governor and 4 Senators was created – was responsible for the education of non-Natives.

1928: Ketchikan School Board passed a Resolution barring Native children from attending a non-Native public school. Suit was filed and the district lost – the Board had violated students’ 14th Amendment rights (AN/NA became citizens by Congressional law in 1924)

1954: Brown v. Board of Education – SCOTUS decision that declared separate educational facilities are essentially unequal.
History of Alaska Education

1972: Molly Hootch Case – Charged that boarding schools and correspondence courses did not provide the same educational opportunities as attending high school in the student’s home community.

- Sued the state for failing to provide Native village high schools while non-Native students had access to high schools in their home towns.

- Settled in 1976 as Tobeluk v. Lind Consent Decree (agreed that if a village had an elementary school, it should have a high school)

- State began a $143M construction program to be in compliance with the Consent Decree.

- Forced the State to take responsibility for Native education from K-12

- Forced compliance with Brown v. Board of Ed (1954) re: separate and unequal schools
Between 1870 and 1960 there were multiple transfers of authority and responsibility for Alaska schools:


Because of the focus on assimilation and “civilizing” there was little to no accountability for the quality, rigor, or relevance of curriculum, or protections from abuse at boarding and home schools.
“Through most of the 20th Century, racial discrimination was deliberate and intentional. Today, racial segregation and division often result from habits, policies, and institutions that are not explicitly designed to discriminate. Contrary to popular belief, discrimination or segregation do not require animus. They thrive even in the absence of prejudice or ill will. It’s common to have racism without ‘racists’.”

(Richard Benjamin, *Searching for Whitopia: An Improbable Journey to the Heart of White America*)
Percentage of K-12 Population:  Black (3.6%)  White (49.3%)  Latino/a (6.6%)  AN/AI (23.3%)

Drop-out Rates:  Black (4%)  White (2.6%)  Latino/a (4%)  AN/AI (6%)

Discipline Rates (1st-12th grade):  Black (17.9%)  White (5.7%)  Latino/a (8.2%)  AN/AI (19.47%)

Based on Anchorage SD data – unable to locate state-level data by race

On-time Graduation Rates:  Black (71.1%)  White (80%)  Latino/a (72.3%)  AN/AI (63.6%)

Economically Disadvantaged (Living in Poverty):  AN/AI = 19%; Non-Native = 11%

Data by race other than AN/AI unavailable at the state level

Special Education, Gifted/Talented, AP/IB Participation: Unable to locate state-level data by race

Classes not taught by a highly qualified teacher (Secondary Schools):

19.12% (high poverty); 11% (mid-poverty); 8.8% (low poverty)
Disparities in Alaska Across Sectors

- **Median Income (by household):** 2-parent ($94,394); Single dad ($50,064); Single mom ($30,437)
- **Home Ownership:** 2-parent (70%); Single dad (<60%); Single mom (<40%)
- **Unemployment Rate (25-54 yr. olds):** AN/AI (34.4%); White (19%) - *Ranked #46 in the US*
  - Historically seasonal employment (commercial fishing; tourism), though diversification is happening
  - Full-time/year-round job (37%; US=48%); Part time/part year (45%; US=32%); Unemployed (18%; US=20%)
- **Incarceration:** Black (9.9% - are 3.6% of population); White (46.3% - are 64.1% of population); AN/AI (36.9% - are 14.8% of population)
  - Juvenile Justice System: AN/AI 10-17 yr. olds were 37% of referrals (22% of population)
  - Juvenile Arrests for DUls: 70 p/1000 - more than double the national rate (30 p/1000)
Wage Disparity: AK Men at all education levels (<HS degree; HS degree; some college; B.A.) earn approximately 40% more than women with comparable education levels nationally.

- AK men at all education levels earn 20-35% more than AK women
- AK women earn more, on average than Lower 48 women
- Earning gap is especially large among men with just a high school degree and/or limited college education (earn about 20% more than Lower 48 men)
  - Many well-paying jobs available in fields like oil, other resource extraction, fishing, and construction which do not require an advanced degree.

Income Inequality: Avg. income increased only for the top 1% (Highest rate in the US)
Disparities for Children in Alaska Across Sectors

- 15% of all children in AK live below the federal poverty line *(Ranked #2 – lowest in US)*

- Infant Mortality*: Black (9.5 p/1000); White (3.4 p/1000); AN/AI (8.9 p/1000)
  - AK ranked #1 (lowest) in US with 3.8 p/1000; US avg. = 6.1 p/1000

- Low Birth Weight*: Black (11.1%); White (5.3%); AN/AI (6%)
  - AK ranked #1 (lowest) in US with 6 p/1000

- Children w/out health insurance: 0-17 yrs. (14%); US avg. = 9%
  - Less likely to be covered by Medicaid; more likely to have coverage through the military

*Note: Numbers are relatively small, so any shift can cause significant change
Disparities for Children in Alaska Across Sectors


- **Child Death Rates (1-14 yrs.):** 25 p/1000 (Ranked #43 in US)
- **Teen Death Rates (15-19 yrs. old):** 76 p/1000 (Ranked #49 in US)
  - 40% accidents; 29% suicide; 18% natural causes; 8% homicide
- Suicide rate is more than double the rest of the country
- 2002-11: 49% were AN/Al boys; 27% non-Native boys; 8% AN/Al girls; 6% non-Native girls
- **AN/Al teens are 22% of the population and accounted for 67% of all suicides (2002-11)**
- The Northern, Southwest and Southeast regions accounted for the majority of suicides

- **Teen Birth Rates (15-19 yrs. old):** Black (41 p/1000); White (26 p/1000); AN/Al (77 p/1000)
  - National Avg. is 41 p/1000 (Ranked #37 in US)
  - Disproportionately high in Northern (99 p/1000) and Southwest (81 p/1000) regions
Impact of Income and Race
Percent Meeting Standard in Mathematics (Grades 3-8 Combined)

- **NOT Low Income (FRL), NOT Student of Color**
  - 2006: 24%  
  - 2014: 42%

- **Low Income (FRL), NOT Student of Color**
  - 2006: 50%  
  - 2014: 66%

- **Student of Color, NOT Low Income (FRL)**
  - 2006: 78%  
  - 2014: 70%

- **BOTH Low Income (FRL) and Student of Color**
  - 2006: 49%  
  - 2014: 89%

2014 Distribution
- 51%
- 25%
- 16%
- 7%
****ACTIVITY****
Define the Following Words/Terms:

- Race
- Racism
- Institutional Racism
- Structural Racism
- Internalized Racism
- Interpersonal Racism
Applying an Equity Lens to Your Work:

**Success Strategies:**
- Unpack the norms, their purpose and your intent in using them.
- Do your own work regarding race, stereotypes, and bias.
- Be prepared to facilitate and give guidance when micro-aggressions occur.
- Prevent the “poverty pivot” from sidelining discussions of race.

**Be aware that:**
- Each individual has their own experiences and history around equity.
  - Help them find their access point.
- White privilege is always in the room.
- It’s essential to develop a common understanding of race and equity (terminology).
Resources:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Caprice Hollins and Ilsa Govan)
- Courageous Conversations (Glenn Singleton)
- Race Matters (Cornel West)
- Whistling Vivaldi (Claude Steele)
- Despite the Best Intentions: How Racial Inequality Thrives in Good Schools (A. Lewis & J. Diamond)
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (Michelle Alexander)
- Other People's Children (Lisa Delpit)
- Critical Race Theory (Richard Delgado & Jean Stefancic)
- White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
  [Link](http://www.cirtl.net/files/Part1_CreatingAwareness_WhitePrivilegeUnpackingtheInvisibleKnapsack.pdf)
Alaska-Specific Resources:

- AK Dept. of Education and Early Development: https://education.alaska.gov/stats
- Russia's Colony | Alaska History and Cultural Studies: http://www.akhistorycourse.org/russias-colony/the-russians-use-Alaska
Alaska-Specific Resources:

- Segregation and Jim Crow in Alaska: [https://faculty.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=Cole%2C+ALSKA.pdf&tabid=31574&mid=166321](https://faculty.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=Cole%2C+ALSKA.pdf&tabid=31574&mid=166321)
- Desegregation in Alaska Schools: [http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/haycox1.html#top](http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/haycox1.html#top)
- A History of Schooling for Alaska Native Peoples: [http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/curriculum/Articles/CarolBarnhardt/HistoryofSchooling.html](http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/curriculum/Articles/CarolBarnhardt/HistoryofSchooling.html)
- Income Inequality | TIME: [http://time.com/10684/10-states-where-income-inequality-has-soared/](http://time.com/10684/10-states-where-income-inequality-has-soared/)
- AK Education History: [http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/historic.htm](http://www.alaskool.org/native_ed/historic.htm)
Alaska-Specific Resources:

- Alaska Statehood Act: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Statehood_Act](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_Statehood_Act)
- Racism and Discrimination in Alaska: [http://www.uscccr.gov/pubs/sac/ak0402/ch1.htm](http://www.uscccr.gov/pubs/sac/ak0402/ch1.htm)
- Civil Rights Dates: [http://www.visionmakermedia.org/sites/default/files/resources/edu_vdg_4all.pdf](http://www.visionmakermedia.org/sites/default/files/resources/edu_vdg_4all.pdf)
- Alaska’s Anti-Discrimination Act: [https://www.adn.com/commentary/article/alaskas-anti-discrimination-act-was-and-achievement-and-necessary/2014/08/19/](https://www.adn.com/commentary/article/alaskas-anti-discrimination-act-was-and-achievement-and-necessary/2014/08/19/)
Alaska-Specific Resources:

- Alaska Territory: http://www.akhistorycourse.org/americas-territory/alaskas-heritage/chapter-4-20-education
- Alaska Native Health Disparities: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1963277/
Alaska-Specific Resources:

- Native Civil Rights Fight: [http://www.akhistorycourse.org/alaskas-cultures/alaska-natives-fight-for-civil-rights](http://www.akhistorycourse.org/alaskas-cultures/alaska-natives-fight-for-civil-rights)
***QUESTIONS??***