Equity & Access Checklist

Questions to help identify gaps and opportunities in your community.

1. Access to Programs & Services

☐ Are early childhood, K–12, and postsecondary programs available in all areas of the community?

☐ Are there neighborhoods or regions with limited access to key services?

☐ Do families have access to transportation to reach programs?

☐ Are program hours flexible enough to meet family needs?

2. Availability of Seats & Capacity

☐ Are there enough seats or openings for all age groups?

☐ Are waitlists longer in certain neighborhoods or for certain programs?

☐ Are infant and toddler openings especially limited?

☐ Do capacity gaps align with population growth or demographic shifts?

3. Affordability & Financial Barriers

☐ Are program costs affordable for most families?

☐ Do families have access to subsidies, scholarships, or financial aid?

☐ Are there gaps between subsidy availability and actual program capacity?

☐ Are fees, supplies, or transportation costs creating barriers?

4. Quality & Program Experience

☐ Are high-quality programs available across all neighborhoods?

☐ Do quality ratings differ by region or provider type?

☐ Are families able to access programs that match their needs (language, special needs, cultural relevance)?

☐ Are staff qualifications and training consistent across regions?

5. Student Groups & Equity Gaps

☐ Are certain student groups underrepresented in advanced coursework or enrichment programs?

☐ Are there gaps in attendance, performance, or graduation rates across student groups?

☐ Do multilingual learners, students with disabilities, or economically disadvantaged students face additional barriers?

☐ Are supports equitably distributed across schools and regions?

6. Community Resources & Supports

☐ Are mental health, counseling, and family support services available in all areas?

☐ Do families know how to access available supports?

☐ Are community partnerships evenly distributed across neighborhoods?

☐ Are high-need areas receiving targeted support?

7. Communication & Engagement

☐ Are materials available in multiple languages?

☐ Are families included in decision-making processes?

☐ Are communication methods accessible to all families (digital, print, in-person)?

☐ Are families aware of available programs and opportunities?

8. Trends Over Time

☐ Are equity gaps widening, narrowing, or staying the same?

☐ Are improvements consistent across regions and student groups?

☐ Are new barriers emerging due to population changes or economic shifts?

9. Questions for Follow-Up

☐ What areas need deeper exploration?

☐ Which groups or neighborhoods need additional support?

☐ What next steps should be taken to improve equity and access?