

Improvement in Student Equity Gaps from 2013-14 to 2016-17

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Overview

While analyzing equity data between 2013-14 and 2016-17, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning (OIERP) noticed that while some identified equity gaps persisted, the gaps appeared to close in some measures. To help inform continuous quality improvement, the Equity Program requested further analysis of where the equity gaps may have closed. This brief analyzes where equity gaps decreased between 2013-14 and 2016-17.

Methodology

Equity gaps were compared between the [2014 Student Equity Data Report](#) and the [2017 Student Equity Data Report](#). The measure and student group were identified where an equity gap either ceased to exist or persisted from one report to the next. For the access measure, the percent change in the proportionality index was calculated. For all other measures, the percent change in student group performance on that measure was calculated.

Findings

Table I indicates the student groups and measures where the equity gap decreased. The largest improvement measured was the basic skills mathematics throughput rate for 30-34 year old students which increased 44%, and access improved for 35-39 year old students by 24%. Some of the largest increases were observed in degree and certificate completion with African American students increasing completion by 24%, male students by 22%, and Hispanic students by 20%. Although equity gaps persisted in many measures for African American students, there were decreases in equity gaps for other additional measures such as an increase in the basic skills mathematics throughput rate of 12.5%, the basic skills English throughput rate of 11%, and the transfer rate by 6%.

Table I. Equity gap improvements in selected student groups and measures.

Equity Measure & Student Group	Equity Data Cohort Year		Year-Over-Year Improvement
	2013-2014	2016-2017	
Access			
30-34 year olds	0.726	0.772	6.0%
35-39 year olds	0.375	0.494	24.1%
50 year olds or older	0.056	0.060	6.7%
Course Success Rate			
Foster Youth	49	55.1	11.1%
Math Basic Skills Throughput Rate			
African American	14	16	12.5%
30-34 year olds	12.8	22.9	44.1%
English Basic Skills Throughput Rate			
African American	32.4	36.4	11.0%
Hispanic	44.9	46.4	3.2%
Degree and Certificate Completion Rate			
Male	14.6	18.8	22.3%
African American	13.3	17.5	24.0%
Hispanic	14.1	17.6	19.9%
Transfer Rate			
African American	25.9	27.5	5.8%
Hispanic	22.2	24.5	9.4%

Note: "Year-Over-Year Improvement" denotes the percent change $[(\text{year2-year1})/\text{year1} * 100]$ within the student group and equity measure from 2013-2014 to 2016-2017.