WELCOME
Achievement Gap 101

Goal:

Community members will gain a better understanding of what is meant by the achievement gap and strategies that can be used to close it.
The Moral Imperative

There is an achievement gap between whites and non-whites; and between students of different income levels.

Increasing numbers of children come from historically marginalized groups. Income disparities across the US are continuing to grow.

We must improve the academic achievement of students in order to ensure college and career readiness.

Close the Achievement Gap and Raise the Bar:
If it can be done, then it must be done!
Achievement Gap 101

What is the achievement gap?
BSD data snapshot
High Leverage Change Practices
Discussion
Whole group share
Video and exit card
Achievement Gap Definition

A working definition of the achievement gap in the United States refers to the observed, persistent disparity in measures of educational performance among subgroups of U.S. students, especially groups defined by socioeconomic status (SES), race/ethnicity, and gender. Essentially, income, race, and other demographic factors currently predict achievement.
Turn and talk
Excellence with equity for all

(1) (2) (3) = Group Proportional Equality with Excellence

Groups 1 & 2 Equally Represented

Horizontal Axis represents Marketable Skills
Current BSD Sixth Graders Who Scored Proficient and Above on the Math SBAC in 2017

- FRL (18 students out of 109): 17%
- Not FRL (88 students out of 129): 68%
The Research: High Leverage Change Practices

1. Teachers
2. Peers
3. Family
4. Community
5. Employers
TEACHERS: Highly Effective Teaching
PEER INTERACTIONS: Positive interactions among students
FAMILY: Family engagement around student learning
COMMUNITY: Partner with the community in ways that promote and provide program supports for families and youth
EMPLOYERS: Orientation to the world of work and possible selves, including apprenticeships
INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS

Schools that have made systemic changes and improved student achievement had common elements:

● A small group of leaders that take responsibility to lead change process
● A clear mission statement that includes input from stakeholders
● High quality adult learning and PD
● Relentless implementation over time - monitoring and feedback cycles
● Use data effectively - data you can count, see, and hear
● Use external benchmarks - students are competing with the world, not classmates
● Celebrate small successes so stakeholders can see that what they do matters

*Source: R. Ferguson: How High Schools Become Exemplary*
Small Group Discussions

What are your thoughts and questions?
Video: Education Gap: The Root of Inequality
Thank You.