

Closing the Equity Gap in Education

Across this industry, we often talk about promoting educational equity. Arguably a difficult concept to grasp, this starts with understanding that, for many students, education is often an uneven playing field. Even the most well-intended educators may think about promoting equity as ensuring equality—when, in fact, the two are very different. Equality can be defined as providing every student with the same quality education and similar supports, while equity is seen as supporting each student with an individual approach that meets his or her specific needs.

When you start to separate the two terms in your mind and think about the value that operating with equity can have, it's clear to see that striving for equity through personalized learning is more than just "the next big thing." It's a choice to stop allowing some students to miss out on the game altogether by providing them with the support and opportunities they require to make necessary gains in learning.

As an organization deeply routed in this goal, we work with Florida educators daily to support program needs and drive innovation in the spirit of promoting equity for students.

At Christa McAuliffe Middle School in Boynton Beach, Florida, educators are dedicated to promoting standards proficiency and driving FSA success across their entire population of students. Reflecting on two years of success as an Edmentum partner, Assistant Principal Rachelle Lowen noted, "I know the teachers like that they can have everything individualized for the students. If they really are trying to help give every single student a chance, not just a blanket lesson, they like that they can monitor the kids in an easier way... They can really personalize the learning of every student with just one click."

Similarly, in the School District of Osceola County in Kissimmee, Florida, a longstanding Edmentum partner of more than 15 years, educators continue to make a big impact for high school students. Ensuring that all learners achieve a path toward graduation, Director of Alternative Programs Beth Rattie commented "Our community sees the increase in our graduation rates. They're seeing students being successful in high school. I think we've just opened so many doors for the students."

We count these success stories as just two of many in the state of Florida, and we like to think that who we are is a lot like who you are—individuals fiercely committed to the success of every student. As a pioneer in online education with over 50 years of experience, Edmentum will continue to operate as your most trusted educator partner. We offer high-quality digital curriculum, valid and reliable assessments, and best-in-class education consulting to drive outcomes for Florida educators. For more information, visit www.edmentum.com or call 800.447.5286. ■

