

To better understand what access to resources, supports, and opportunities looks like for all Houston Independent School District (HISD) students, the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC) is partnering with HISD for The Equity Project. This districtwide comprehensive study on educational equity will provide a particular focus on understanding whether historically marginalized student populations in the district have the resources they need to be successful in the classroom and beyond. HERC researchers, in partnership with the district and external research partners, will study equity through summer 2021 across seven topic areas to identify the mechanisms through which HISD and the community can improve equity, and work to eliminate gaps in student achievement and attainment. Information from these studies will help guide district decision-making to improve equity for HISD students of all backgrounds.

## Research Topics for the Equity Project

Financial Equity

Human Capital

Academic and Extracurricular Programming

Student Supports

Technology

Facilities

COVID-19

## Guiding Research Questions

- To what extent are resources and supports in HISD distributed equitably across different groups of students?
- What role does access to and utilization of those resources and supports play in any differences in student outcomes?
- What measures can HISD, working alongside the broader community, take to achieve equity for all students?

## Research Plan of Action

For each topic study, HERC and HISD will:

- Develop specific research questions and goals
- Determine what HISD data is needed
- Create a timeline and communication plan
- Build a theory of action around how HISD intends to use findings

Some study findings will be based on prior research. Researchers are working with HISD staff to determine what new or updated analyses will help answer the most critical equity questions across topic areas. HERC will deliver a variety of research to support HISD and share with the broader community. Based on the needs of the district in each study area, a variety of research products and resources will be available for download.

Learn more about The Equity Project at [houstonisd.org/equityproject](https://houstonisd.org/equityproject) or [herc.rice.edu/equityproject](https://herc.rice.edu/equityproject).



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<sup>1</sup> As a reminder, this list of topics is not intended to be fully inclusive of all potential research on equity, but a starting place for this first phase of the study.