

Schools & Communities Organizing for Racial Equity – SCORE

WHAT is SCORE?

SCORE is a **community-driven, action-oriented research project** that identifies community **priorities for educational and racial equity**; develops **indicators** to measure school/district progress on these priorities; and designs a “**SCOREcard**” **tool** to support shared understanding and communication about the equity indicators and priority areas.

WHO does SCORE?

An intergenerational Community Research Team of **students** and **parents/caregivers** recruited in partnership with **community-based organizations**, supported by **researchers/facilitators** from the Center for Youth and Community Leadership in Education (CYCLE), who seek **collaborative solutions** to educational equity challenges with **school districts**.

WHEN & WHERE is SCORE happening?

The inaugural SCORE project took place in Providence, RI in 2021-22. In 2022-23, SCORE was launched in both Newport and Central Falls, RI. In 2023-24, SCORE processes and tools are being adapted for a community-district partnership in Manchester, CT. In addition, the SCORE team is exploring how the project can be applied to work with partners in Atlanta, GA.

WHY is SCORE important?

SCORE represents an effort to:

- 1) **measure what matters** to students and families;
- 2) help school districts understand, be responsive to, and be held accountable to **community priorities for educational and racial equity**; and
- 3) **share school district progress** on community priorities with youth, parents, and other community members.

Measures of school accountability have traditionally been determined by top-down processes and without community input. SCORE seeks to not only support but transform district and school improvement via community-driven accountability and parent and student leadership. Ultimately, SCORE shifts the lines of accountability for school improvement and success so that they might become bottom-up, community-driven, collaborative, and equity-oriented.

HOW does SCORE work?

The “typical” phases of a SCORE project can be modified to meet a community’s needs and context, and account for any existing work (research, advocacy, issue prioritization) that has already occurred.



SCORE PROCESS

Preparation

Prior to project launch, preparation for SCORE entails solidifying partnerships, recruiting Community Research Team members, project planning, and handling logistics.

PHASE 1

Relationship/Team Building, Storytelling, and Issue Identification

Building relationships, trust, and understanding between Community Research Team members and with staff/facilitators, including identifying issues or focus areas for the SCORE project via shared stories about educational experiences and visions.

PHASE 2

Research Preparation and Design

Preparing for research by working with Community Research Team members to identify root causes of problems they're seeing in their school district, understand research ethics, develop research questions, and learn research methods.

PHASE 3

Data Collection

Designing research instruments (such as surveys and interview protocols) and collecting data through the methods identified in the design phase.

PHASE 4

Data Analysis and Indicator Development

Using research findings to develop indicators and planning for how to present those indicators and related data to a wider audience.

PHASE 5

Implementation

Planning, strategizing for, and conducting outreach with various stakeholders, including school district partners, who may be able to adopt, advocate for, or use information from the SCOREcard indicators.

For more resources visit www.scoretoolkit.org.



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