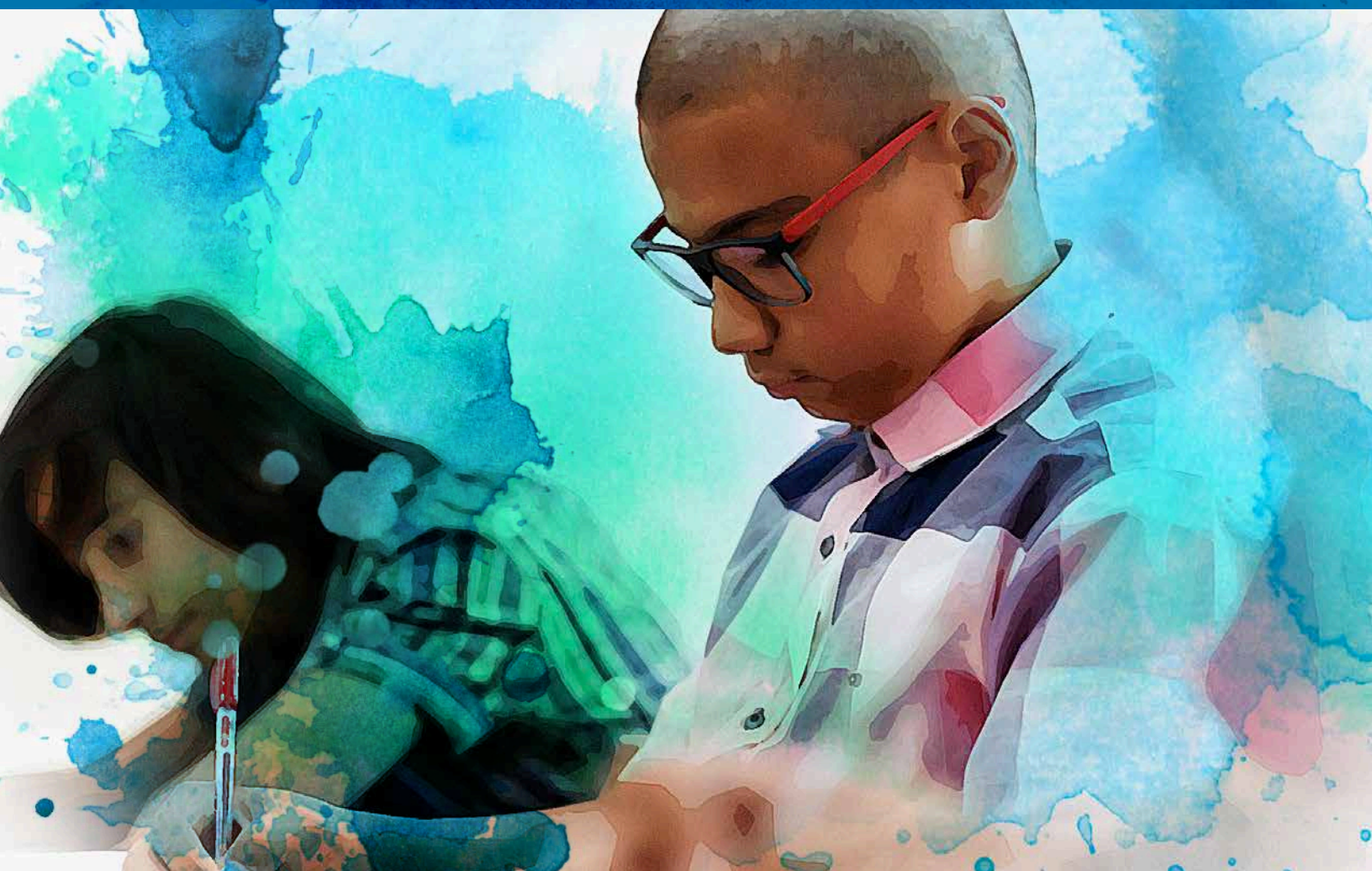


IN PURSUIT OF TRANSFORMATION:

HOW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PARTNERS CAN ADVANCE ASSESSMENT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY INNOVATION



Since 2019, over ninety organizations –including state education agencies, nonprofits, advocacy groups, assessment developers, and researchers – have led efforts to transform K-12 assessment and accountability systems. *In Pursuit of Transformation: Five Years of Investments in Assessment and Accountability Innovation*, a report developed by Education First, details the explorations, accomplishments, and lessons learned from these 90+ organizations.

Drawing on insights from **Equal Opportunity Schools**, an organization among the 90+ highlighted in the report, this brief illustrates how technical assistance partners, developers, and researchers can advance assessment and accountability innovation.

HOW EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS DRIVES INNOVATION IN ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) support schools in identifying and enrolling historically underserved students in advanced coursework to set them up to have the greatest opportunity for success in school and life. Through a comprehensive four-phase process, EOS collaborates with schools to analyze equity barriers to advanced coursework, develop support plans, and monitor progress. This approach ensures that students from diverse backgrounds have equitable access to rigorous academic opportunities, fostering a more inclusive educational environment and setting students up to succeed in and beyond high school. By leveraging data and analysis, EOS strengthens the capacity of educators and system leaders to remove barriers that hinder student success.

In the Pursuit of Transformation report, Education First offers the following considerations for technical assistance partners, developers, and researchers for future assessment and accountability:

- 1. Deepen understanding of school improvement efforts** and implementation of evidence-based practices.
- 2. Continue to research, develop and scale proof points** of broader measures of students' learning environments, context and wellbeing for use in driving school improvement.
- 3. Ensure your education leaders and partners** have realistic, achievable implementation plans with adequate capacity and support in place to ensure sustainability.
- 4. Prepare for how technological advancements**, including AI, will impact the future of assessment and accountability.

EOS's work demonstrates how the considerations for technical assistance partners, developers, and researchers in the "In Pursuit of Transformation" report can be achieved.

1

Deepen understanding of school improvement efforts and implementation of evidence-based practices.

EOS begins its work with schools and districts by analyzing the student access to advanced coursework using school data and EOS's Student Insight Card, which provides unique insights on every student based on their answers to a survey about how they see themselves as a learner. EOS then identifies students who have been overlooked to enroll in advanced coursework and develops a student and staff support plan. Finally, EOS further evaluates school policies and practices to remove barriers to advanced coursework and student belonging. This approach provides districts, schools and educators a system-wide and individualized student data to inform decision making and improvement.

2

Ensure your education leaders and partners have realistic, achievable implementation plans with adequate capacity and support in place to ensure sustainability.

EOS collaborates with districts to support instructors and school leaders by establishing school-based teams. EOS also facilitates workshops with these teams to help ensure that schools are equipped to provide increased access to advanced coursework for students in the long term.

A vibrant watercolor splash background in shades of blue, green, and purple. The splashes are soft and blended, creating a textured, artistic effect. The colors transition from deep blue at the top to lighter greens and purples towards the bottom. The overall feel is creative and educational.

3

Continue to research, develop and scale proof points of broader measures of students' learning environments, context and wellbeing for use in driving school improvement.

EOS continues to publish research, host webinars, and provide data on increasing students' sense of belonging, creating environments of psychological safety for students, improving college readiness, and eliminating barriers to student success. Explore EOS' [resources here](#).

4

Prepare for how technological advancements, including AI, will impact the future of assessment and accountability.

EOS continues to find innovative ways to support district and school leaders in using student-centered and actionable data to address access to advanced coursework and some of schools' most pressing issues, like chronic absenteeism. Whether it's developing a more integrated portal application where educators can have direct access to their student data to using predictive analytics and machine learning models to improve their student identification system—EOS is constantly iterating on how they can improve their technology and data tools to drive change within the policies, practices, and culture of their district and school partners.

