

Recommendations for Data Disaggregation Policy Advocacy and Implementation

As campaigns continue for data equity and visibility in our respective states and districts, our communities have identified challenges along the way as well as opportunities for improvement to advance advocacy and policy priorities. This document provides recommendations on advocating to policymakers on data disaggregation. These recommendations focus on the need to think through implementation of data disaggregation policies on the front end and how to ensure accountability of your policy once it has passed.

Recommendations for Data Equity Advocacy

- **Set strong and clear objectives** early on for what you want to achieve with the data equity policy.
 - For example, identify **what** the data equity policy aims to achieve (i.e. what problem are you trying to solve and why); **who** will carry out and implement the policy (i.e. agencies and departments that collect demographic data); and, if applicable, **when** do you expect to see the policy enacted and why.
- **Bring your own policy** to the table, including recommendations for what to include in **legislative language**:
 - Focus on **data sharing and transparency**. For example, consider what access to information looks like for your community and/or which ways the agency or department can provide useful information. You may want to include:
 - Specific demographic and ethnic categories
 - Data to be made publicly available and accessible online
 - Include accountability in data equity policy. You may want to ask for:
 - Disaggregated data in a public dashboard
 - Disaggregated data published in annual reports from state agencies and/or departments
 - Annual status updates on the progress of state/district implementation of collecting and reporting disaggregated data
- Create enough **structure and be intentional in terms of creating opportunities for community advocates to plug in** and fight the battle.
- **Build mutual relationships** with key stakeholders during and after the bill is passed to ensure ongoing representation.

Recommendations for Policy Implementation

Consider building these implementation measures into the legislative language:

- Develop processes for holding state leaders accountable about ongoing stakeholder engagement and communication after the data equity policy is adopted.
- Consider a requirement for the state department of education (or the department you are engaging with) to create guidance for districts and agencies on what implementation and compliance with data disaggregation policy can look like.
- Encourage a requirement for state leaders or work with the state department of education to establish a standard way of collecting information across districts and agencies.
- Build into any legislation funding to support data infrastructure and increased capacity related to the policy and its implementation.
- Include a timeline for implementation and include check-ins and meetings with stakeholders on progress of implementation.
- Coordinate agencies and data systems to communicate with one another. For example, seek answers to questions such as, “Who owns the data? How will advocacy groups and communities be able to use this?”

“It was easier to pass the policy than to implement it. Due to decentralized power at the district level and lack of institutional knowledge, there can be lack of awareness and little political education about data disaggregation policy. We have to keep elevating the issues and meet with state leaders to ensure the policy will be implemented

with fidelity.” - Chanda Womack, Executive Director
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)

Closing Thoughts

- Anticipate that the policymakers may not understand data disaggregation and its importance to the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander

(AANHPI) community. Come to meetings prepared with data points, stories, and specific asks.

- **Anticipate opposition** at public hearings and meetings on data disaggregation. To this point, **build a coalition with other AANHPI organizations and other communities of color** to champion data equity in your state.
- Finally, **the campaign for data equity doesn't end with the passage of the bill**. Advocates need to be prepared to push legislators and state leaders on implementation early on with the expectation that **accountability and continuous engagement is needed to implement data equity systems with fidelity**.

Resources

- [AAPI Data infographics](#): These infographics detail how AANHPI populations fare on several education and social issues.
- [AAPI Data policy talking points](#) : This resource provides communications and legislative talking points that addresses policy concerns and opposition to data disaggregation. This resource is particularly useful for understanding the political landscape of data disaggregation and how advocates can build understanding on data equity issues.
- [ARISE's Critical Race Theory](#) : This resource provides talking points and quotes from youth on the importance of racial justice in education. Infographics on what is CRT and how educators and education stakeholders can encourage teaching truth in schools are provided.
- [SEARAC & AAJC Los Angeles' Southeast Asian American Journeys](#): This resource provides a snapshot of the issues impacting Southeast Asian Americans, including education inequities. Included in the brief are examples of states that campaigned for data equity.
- [Data Disaggregation General Factsheet](#): Learn more about how data disaggregation can unconceal disparities that uniquely impact Southeast Asian American communities. This fact sheet provides an overview of how disaggregated data can be used to allocate resources equitably, as well as indicates existing areas where race and ethnic data need to be collected, reported, and analyzed.
- [SEARAC & Institute for Higher Education Policy's Everyone Deserves to be Seen: Recommendations for Improved Federal Data on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#): This fact sheet details how data disaggregation can properly identify

socio-economic inequities that will support the postsecondary success of AANHPI students and improve public programs.

