

INTRODUCING THE

# EQUITY

JOURNEY CONTINUUM



**WHAT** The Equity Journey Continuum (EJC) is an informational tool that helps districts examine their own data through an equity lens. By analyzing information districts already collect and report to ISBE, the EJC highlights gaps in student achievement, opportunities, and supports. The goal is to make this data more actionable so districts can strengthen systems and improve outcomes for all students. ISBE developed the tool using national research and models from other states.

**WHO** **All public school districts**  
All Illinois public school districts will receive an EJC designation. Each district's data will be placed along an equity continuum – from Step 1 (large gaps) to Step 4 (minimal gaps) – in the three focus areas of ISBE's Strategic Plan:  
**Student Learning**  
**Learning Conditions**  
**Elevating Educators**

**WHEN** **October 2025**  
The EJC is part of ISBE's Strategic Plan adopted in November 2020. ISBE piloted the tool in summer 2021 with a diverse group of districts statewide. The first statewide release was in October 2022, and districts continue to preview and use their EJC data.

**WHERE** **Illinois Report Card**  
The Illinois Report Card displays each district's EJC step level for all three categories. Full underlying data is accessible only to the district.

**WHY** **Equity**  
Illinois' public education system continues to show persistent and significant achievement gaps between student groups. The EJC serves as a guide to help districts identify where they may need to:

- Adjust policies and systems
- Increase access to programs
- Allocate additional resources
- Engage targeted supports

The ultimate aim is to ensure that all students – regardless of background – have equitable opportunities to achieve the same high standards.