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Your Question:

You asked about information regarding the duties and responsibilities of state-level equity officers as well as what states are doing relating to state-level equity officers.

Our Response:

District-Level Officers

We were unable to find any states that have state-level equity officers for education. However, we were able to locate some school districts that employ equity officers at the district level, including:

- [Chicago Public Schools](#);
- [Jefferson County Schools](#) (Kentucky);
- [Oakland Unified School District](#) (California);
- [Wake County Public Schools](#) (North Carolina); and
- [Puyallup School District](#) (Washington state).

Limited information about these district-level offices is publicly available, and several positions were created within the past five years. However, Oakland Unified School District's Office of Equity appears to provide [classroom resources](#) and [professional development \(see pages 3, 10, 22 and 23\)](#).

State-Level Offices

While we are not aware of any state-level equity officers, some states have a state-level office dedicated to equity and/or diversity, although their purposes and roles can vary. For instance, the [Equity Assurance & Compliance Office](#) ensures that the **Maryland** State Department of Education is in compliance with pertinent federal and state civil rights in education and employment laws and regulations.

The [Office of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education](#) at the **Colorado** Department of Education provides support to school districts, schools and educational leaders in the academic, linguistic and social-emotional challenges and opportunities of culturally and linguistically diverse students to ensure equitable access to grade-level standards and ensure a well-rounded education. Additionally, the Office offers individualized district and/or school technical assistance support, including a district-wide review of English language development programs. Although focused primarily on the needs of English learners, the Office also offers resources on [immigrant and refugee students](#) and [professional learning opportunities](#) for educators.

Moreover, the [Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) at the **Oregon** Department of Education works with students who are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, English learners, immigrants, migrants or those with disabilities. The Office also offers resources for classrooms to reflect diverse experiences, including [Oregon Studies](#) resources (articles, timelines and an encyclopedia on topics related to Oregon history). Through [Oregon Senate Bill 739](#) (2013), the Oregon Department of Education is directed to develop academic standards for Oregon Studies and prepare materials to support teacher professional development and classroom instruction in this area. Lastly, the Office offers a [form](#) for educators to request professional development, technical assistance or coaching on its website.

Additional Resources

- ✓ [Leading for Equity: Opportunities for State Education Chiefs](#), The Aspen Education & Society Program and the Council of Chief State School Officers, February 2017
- ✓ [Here's Some Advice for CPS' Future Chief Equity Officer in Year One](#), Adeshina Emmanuel, Chalkbeat Chicago, July 24, 2018

Some states have offices that focus on specific student populations. For example, the [Indian Education Division](#) at the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the [Indian Education Division](#) at the New Mexico Public Education Department focus primarily on Native American students in each state.