Who We Are

Advocates for educational justice and the high academic achievement of all California students, particularly those of color and living in poverty.

Mission: The Education Trust-West works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-k through college. We expose opportunity and achievement gaps that separate students of color and low-income students from other youth, and we identify and advocate for the strategies that will forever close those gaps.

ETW 101 – General Facts

Ed Trust-West’s team grew in 2018. Our team members bring to the organization a wide range of expertise in policy, research, and practice related to California’s P-12 and higher education systems. Our policy and practice teams work alongside our government relations, external relations, communications, and operations teams in the fight for educational equity and justice.

Staff Racial/Ethnic Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Staff by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30%</td>
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2018 Team Growth

Hired 5 new staff members in 2018, a 22% increase.
Total Reach 2,465,700

Total Retweets 1,716
New Followers 1,740
Total Link Clicks 176,967
Twitter Profile Visits 28,546
Total Tweet Likes 4,729
Mentions 1,863

Total Reach 5,120,565

New Page Likes 876
Post Engagement 3,217
Total Engagements 1,117
New Followers 250+

Total Reach 422,144

(This) should create a tremendous urgency for our newly elected state leaders and local leaders to start to do something dramatically different to support our students so that several years from now, far fewer schools are struggling to create opportunities for all students. — Carrie Hahnel

I am proud of ETW’s tireless efforts to lead the fight against opportunity and achievement gaps in California’s education system and inspired by the Summer Fellows who will take ETW’s ethos of educational equity into the future. — Russlynn Ali, Chief Executive Officer of XQ Institute, Managing Director of Education for Emerson Collective, Founding Executive Director of Ed Trust—West

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We are seeing more of a focus on equity in schools, though we also need to talk about educational justice. Equity becomes a buzzword when we aren’t explicit about how to do it, about what actions it involves. — Elisha Smith Arrillaga

I have a son and … I would never be content to know that it would be his grandchildren, and not him, that have the educational opportunities that he deserves. — Elisha Smith Arrillaga

2018 saw the launch of two fellowship programs, both intended to increase racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in P-12 and higher education policymaking spaces. Five emerging leaders joined us this year as the Inaugural Cohort of the Russlynn Ali Summer Fellows and eight leaders from across the state joined us as Senior Equity Fellows.

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Where We Are In the Community

- 7 subgrants awarded to regional community partners through ETW’s Equity Grants Program
- 400+ student leaders engaged through presentations, keynotes, and conferences
- 27+ resources shared including equity alerts, statements, press releases, policy briefs, and reports
- 110+ community organizations engaged with frequently
- 100+ presentations, panels, webinars, and Data Equity Walks reaching over 10k people

"We are really excited about the possibility the future can hold but only if we move with more urgency in the state of California. It’s important that we speed up the urgency with which we are making these changes, especially with the next administration."

—Elisha Smith Arrillaga

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Data-driven decision making can help close equity gaps. Understanding how students are doing on different measures of student achievement is crucial for advocates and other stakeholders. To help increase public understanding of achievement gaps, and to build the capacity of stakeholders to engage in advocacy efforts, we released a series of achievement and accountability resources in 2018. Our work included:

- Public Statement and Student Achievement Analysis on results of the 2017-18 Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Public Statement and Student Achievement Analysis on results of the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- Equity Alert on Holding Alternative Schools, Districts, and County Offices Accountable for All Students’ Success

Advocating on Behalf of Over 1.2 Million English Learners

Through research, policy work, and other advocacy efforts in 2018, we worked to ensure a broad base of support for California’s English learners. Our report, Unlocking Learning II: Math as a Lever for English Learner Equity, reached thousands of individuals in 2018:

- 4,000 web views
- 2,500 copies printed and distributed
- 5,000 executive summaries distributed at the California Association for Bilingual Education 2018 Annual Conference

Our work included:

- Twitter Chat engaging 200+ participants, co-hosted with The Education Trust, California Association for Bilingual Education, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- 9 presentations on ULII, including with County Offices of Education

Funding Our Future

Closing equity gaps in California’s higher education system cannot happen without addressing funding gaps and financial aid program limitations. In 2018, we released a series of resources to help build awareness, engage advocates, and inform policymakers as they develop proposals on increasing financial aid access and student success. Our work included:

- 1 Policy Brief
- 3 Equity Alerts
- Resources accessed over 1,800+ times online
Our second annual Education Equity Forum was a huge success - selling out for a second year in a row and bringing together a wide range of P-12 educators, higher education faculty, education administrators, students, parent organizers, advocates, and policymakers.

**Participant Survey Results**

- **90%** agree that the forum exceeded their expectations
- **93%** agree that the forum provided them with practical information that they will be able to use in their own work
- **10K+** Twitter impressions and **1,800+** views on Facebook live
- **50** California County offices of education and districts in attendance
- **20** colleges, universities, and higher education organizations represented

*“Dynamic speakers, meeting new educational leaders, being surrounded by equity champions [were the highlights of the forum].”* — Forum attendee
Our Parent Poll surveyed 600+ parents and identified their top priorities for the next Governor:

- About 9 out of 10 Latinx, Black, and Asian Pacific Islander parents said improving P-12 education and college access and affordability should be priorities for the state’s next governor.
- 9 out of 10 Black, Latinx, and Asian Pacific Islander parents said it is valuable for students to graduate from high school being able to speak more than one language.

In 2018, California elected a new slate of state leaders, including a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Ed Trust–West launched our #WhatsNextCA campaign to push education equity into the conversations and coverage on the election and to raise voter awareness on how these roles impact educational decisions in the state. Following the election, we shifted our focus to influencing newly elected leaders, sending them transition packets with policy and appointment recommendations, and urging them to think boldly and equitably about what’s next for California’s P-12 and higher education systems.

We kicked off our campaign with our February Sacramento event, a reception for The Majority Report co-hosted by the Black and Latino Caucuses. In 2018, #WhatsNextCA also included:

- 7 forums hosted or co-hosted with candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor in San Bernardino, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento
- Two livestreamed superintendent forums which reached 1,600 people
- Candidates for Superintendent, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor filled out Ed Trust–West candidate questionnaires, giving voters information on their views on educational equity

Our #WhatsNextCA digital campaign reached over 1 million people in 2018.

Our #WhatsNextCA Policy Agenda Released

Our work on educational equity legislation to watch, the “Equity 8”, helped advocates understand and offer their support for key equity proposals. Over half of the Equity 8 proposals were signed into law including:

- Student-Centered Funding Formula in the state budget
- AB 2015 (Roybal) Requires information on FAFSA and CADAA completion in high school
- AB 1895 (Calderon) Income Based Loan Repayment for DREAMERS
- AB 2835 (Weber) Includes Lowest-Performing Student Groups in LCFF Student Groups (Similar language incorporated into the CA State Budget)
- AB 2735 (O’Donnell) Ensures English Learners Have Access to the Core Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

Parent Poll

Parent Poll

Policy Wins

The Majority Report Reception speakers included:

- Senator Ben Hueso (D - San Diego)
- Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D - Baldwin Park)
- Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D - San Diego)
At the beginning of 2018, California’s Governor introduced a bold proposal to shift California Community College funding to a more equitable approach. The entire Ed Trust–West team worked to ensure this proposal would become law, pushing on policymakers to ensure the final budget included not just the equitable distribution of funds, but also included equity-focused student success incentives. Our advocacy leveraged our research and policy work to prove the equity imperative behind the proposed shift, and saw us host our first Education Equity Advocacy Day in Sacramento.

► Series of 3 statements released to the media and public responding to the Governor’s budget
► San Francisco Chronicle Opinion Editorial
► 60+ advocates at Advocacy Day
► 26 legislative meetings on Advocacy Day, including caucus and committee chairs
► Equity Alert on the funding proposal and important equity considerations
► 25 organizations signed on as a letter of support to budget committee chairs
► 10,000+ Advocacy Day twitter impressions

The California Department of Education implemented crucial accessibility changes to the California School Dashboard, the final state ESSA plan included a number of equity-focused improvements, and the state budget included key LCFF support measures and the establishment of a Community Engagement Initiative.

Outcomes

Both of us have children, two currently in public school and one entering kindergarten next year. We are also leaders in an educational advocacy and racial justice organization. In many ways, the personal is political – and the political is very personal – for both of us.14

—Elisha & Carrie

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As parents and advocates, this frustrates us. Parents shouldn’t have to fight for their voices to matter. As leaders of Ed Trust–West, we push our state and local leaders and empower community stakeholders to demand the very best education for all students—which is no less than what we want for our own children.

—Elisha & Carrie
Founded in 2001 and based in Oakland, The Education Trust-West (ETW) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has worked to advance educational equity in California for 17+ years. To the extent any activities described in this report constitute lobbying for IRS purposes, these activities are described only to provide the full context of ETW’s work on this issue. Such lobbying activities are separately funded and were not supported by funds provided by any foundation.