

COVID-19

RECOVERY POSITION STATEMENT

APRIL 29, 2020



NAPE

Institutions all across the U.S. are working to solve the immediate and dire needs of our most impacted communities. The countless stories of families and businesses responding to the effects of COVID-19 are spotlighting the ways our society's structures reinforce insecurity and depressed outcomes for our most vulnerable residents. The complexities of the current situation and its challenges for educational systems cannot be an excuse to relax laws such as Title II, Title VI, and Title IX which were enacted to protect the civil rights of students. While this is a "novel" virus, its disproportionate impact on our historically marginalized community members is not.

Education leaders will soon begin a phase of recovery while simultaneously facing projections of diminished budgets. Despite these extremely challenging circumstances, the potential to transform our educational landscape for generations of students is enormous. Now is the time for us to adapt to our new environment in ways that actively center our most vulnerable students, educators, and families. Responsibly addressing our growing gaps will require each of us to evaluate how our actions are aligning with our shared beliefs and values. Replicating a history of prescriptive responses will continue to result in depressed outcomes for the young people and families who deserve our unending support. Today we have a choice. Will we confront our many challenges only to reinstate the status quo? Or will we facilitate the work cleareyed through grounded action to usher in new and responsive systems?

Within each of our institutions, we must respond to our students' unique circumstances through an

asset focused lens of compassion and understanding to address their social and emotional needs and facilitate learning. Whether they are refugees, English learners, students with disabilities, or students of color, their experiences hold deep wisdom that must inform our pathway forward post-coronavirus.

Questions that will guide the work ahead include: What does it look like to fully engage one's community in addressing the challenges that we are facing? How do we effectively support our students while building their self-efficacy and skills to solve the complex problems of the future? What does it look like for a school or college to have the mechanisms and supports for every student to access and focus on learning? What could it mean for educators to have the resources necessary to fill any gaps caused by interrupted schooling? How can our individual and collective actions address equity in all aspects of the education experience? And finally, how does each of us contribute to creating new systems and structures that operate through an aligned equity lens?

NAPE is steadfastly committed to a vision of 21st century education that serves every student. Through our research-based professional learning programs and consulting services and our public policy and advocacy efforts, we build the capacity of educators to address equity gaps in education at the individual, institutional, and systems levels. Our membership is committed to ensuring that every student has access and opportunity and an educational environment that leads to equitable outcomes.