

Equity

Although the gap was reduced by about half between 1970 and 1988, it has been widening ever since

Neito 2002

It makes sense, then, to look carefully at two factors besides cultural differences that influence student learning: the sociopolitical context of education, and school policies and practices. The former includes societal ideologies, governmental policies and mandates, and school financing. School policies and practices - specifically, curriculum, pedagogy, tracking, testing, discipline, and hiring - can also either promote or hinder learning among students of different backgrounds.

I think equity is a reasonable goal, but the article highlights some of the difficulties getting there. The sentence I quoted reflects the need to continually review and change what we are doing based on results. We have gone backward at times (the article is from 2002, and hopefully we have begun to fix it), so it is necessary to be aware. The factors listed in the paragraph I chose show that there are many factors at play. Some can be controlled individually or locally, such as pedagogy and curriculum, and some are controlled at a district or state level. All levels need to work together in order to have any chance of an equitable education for all.