



Racial Equity Policy Tool

for Child and Family Public Policies

The Racial Equity Policy Tool allows policymakers to evaluate any proposed policy that purports to close the opportunity gap facing Washington children in low-income families and children of color. The tool (online at www.kidscountwa.org/racial-equity-tool) consists of the following 15 questions:

1. What does existing data say about inequities facing children in Washington by race/ethnicity? See datacenter.kidscount.org for data.
2. If the existing data isn't sound, current, and culturally relevant, what are assets in Washington's diverse communities that could provide data?
3. Why do these inequities exist? When and how did they arise?
4. How have the authors of this proposed policy informed, involved and meaningfully represented stakeholders from Washington's diverse communities in its development?

Content Questions: Questions about the substance of the proposed policy

5. In what ways will the policy under consideration close gaps in child outcomes and expand opportunities for all children and families in Washington?
6. How does the policy support the family and community as vital to a child's success?
7. How does the policy support Washington's state linguistic diversity?
8. What are the alternatives to this proposed policy?
9. Have the proposed policy's authors accurately and adequately resourced it? How will they ensure successful and sustainable implementation?
10. Is the proposed policy intended as a short-term measure or is it intended to endure?
11. Are there provisions to ensure ongoing data collection, public reporting, inclusion and stakeholder participation, future modifications of the policy, and public accountability?

Impact Questions: Questions about the projected effects of the proposed policy

12. What adverse impacts or unintended consequences could result from this policy? Which racial/ethnic groups could be negatively affected?
13. Are the desired results focused on closing gaps facing children in Washington in low-income families and children of color? Or is closing gaps an indirect outcome of a more universal approach?
14. Who is accountable for reaching the desired goals? What are the oversight entities, and how are affected communities represented in the oversight entities?
15. Who is measuring impacts of the proposed policy by race and ethnicity?