Equity in education means:

1. A truly equitable school funding system that doesn’t rely on property taxes as the primary funding mechanism, but incorporates state and federal funds, allocates extra resources to low-income schools and districts, and cushions education budgets in hard economic times.

2. Universal high-quality early childhood education for each and every single child.

3. A system to recruit, train, retain and support high-quality teachers in all schools and prevent inexperienced teachers from being clustered in low-income schools.

4. A complete system of wraparound supports including academic, health and social services and expanded and deeper quality learning time both in and outside the classroom. In providing these supports, we should focus on students in low-income, high-needs schools and districts.

5. School discipline reform that halts the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and prioritizes positive discipline policies that keep students in school and learning rather than barring them from the classroom.

While much of the checklist can be pursued on a state and local level, the federal government must play a key role in promoting, supporting and monitoring progress at all levels.