

Community forum

- District wide or site level facilitated community meeting. Community forums are a great way to gain feedback on specific matters impacting students and stakeholders. Commonly, there are 2-3 issues or challenges for the participants to address. Forum participants often share their concerns, observations, grievances and opinions related to the district or site level matters. Often, the moderator will ask forum participants to share possible solutions to the issues and challenges addressed. An equity team member is suggested to record the feedback. The information recorded is used to inform the creation of equity centered programs.
 - **Listening Circle Community Forums**
 - District wide or site level facilitated community meeting. Intended to build community and to strengthen relationships between school personnel and stakeholders. Listening circles can be structured many ways to gain feedback from stakeholders.
 - Commonly, the participants are broken into groups of 6, 8, or 10 people (even numbers are suggested).
 - Each group is given a question to share ideas, and feedback on. The first time the question is asked, the group of 6, 8, or 10 (no more than 10 people), is then divided in half. For example, if the initial group is comprised of 10 people, it is then broken into 2 groups of 5. One group of 5 becomes group A. The other group of 5 becomes group B.
 - Group A will be prompted to share their responses to the question posed while group B is asked to listen and record their responses. Group B should not respond or interrupt the feedback back shared by members of group A. Group B should intend to record the responses of group A solely.
 - After 10-15 minutes of group A members taking turns sharing their ideas and responses to the question, the moderator will ask group B of each listening circle to take turns sharing their recordings with the larger forum of participants.
 - Depending on the time allotted to the forum, this portion should take approximately 10-15 minutes.
 - After the large group share out, the groups of 10 will be asked to return to their listening circles to repeat the initial process. During the second round, group B participants will take turns sharing their ideas and feedback to the same question as before while group A participants record.
 - After 10-15 minutes, the moderator will close the listening circles and prompt all group A participants to share what they have recorded from the group B participants, with the larger group of forum participants. An equity team member should collect the material recorded and use the feedback to inform equity centered programs.