When it comes to adapting to change, principals are experts. It’s a requirement for the job. But, for faculty and staff, accepting change can be difficult. It often breeds uncertainty, making it harder for them to get on board with new ideas and harder for principals to lead change. But to improve equity in schools, change needs to happen. By tackling tough questions as a team, everyone in the school community—principals, assistant principals, teachers, and families alike—can become advocates for equity.

Digital Promise and The Education Trust recently published a guide to the considerations district leaders face in teaching and supporting students in the coronavirus era. While ensuring learning continuity is an evolving challenge, school teams can monitor the effects of disruptions—pandemic or otherwise—on equity by asking themselves pointed questions to get the conversation moving and equity advocates on-board.

Use this guide with your staff to ensure all students can thrive during distance learning.
8 Questions for Equity Advocates

Equity issues aren't new to schools; a pandemic just shone a bright light on them. Use these questions to guide you and your teachers as you work to ensure all students have an equitable chance to succeed.

1. How can we ensure all students have access to the devices and reliable, high-speed internet they need to fully participate in learning?

2. How can we structure instructional time to meet the needs of students with varying levels of access to the internet and technology?

3. How can we support students with disabilities who need specialized instruction, related services, and other supports?
4 How do we meet the instructional needs of English learners during school closures?

5 What kind of support and professional development do we need to provide to school leaders and teachers—especially in schools serving students of color and students from low-income backgrounds—and educators of students with disabilities and English learners?

6 How can we support the social and emotional well-being of students and their families?
How do we ensure regular communication with students and families—particularly the most vulnerable?

How can we measure student progress to ensure students and families have an accurate picture of student performance for this school year?

Adapted from “With Schools Closed and Distance Learning the Norm, How Is Your District Meeting the Needs of Its Students?” Digital Promise and The Education Trust, 2020.