

CASE STUDY

Accelerating Program Expansion for the National Education Equity Lab

FTI Consulting collaborated with the National Education Equity Lab (Ed Equity Lab), a nonprofit that provides college credit-bearing courses to high school students at Title I high schools. The project created a structured, data-driven and mission-aligned methodology for expansion into new school districts, supporting Ed Equity Lab's goal of reaching 1 million students over the next decade.

The National Education Equity Lab (Ed Equity Lab) currently operates in 31 states, serving 25,000 students across 100 school districts. To scale its reach to 1 million students over the next decade, the Ed Equity Lab required a structured, data-driven approach to expansion, starting with California. Additionally, ensuring financial sustainability and addressing cybersecurity risks were critical to supporting this growth. FTI Consulting was engaged to provide data analysis, strategic planning and a cybersecurity assessment to guide the organization's expansion and long-term success.

OUR IMPACT



FTI Consulting developed a comprehensive data-driven expansion strategy, leveraging publicly available datasets and key performance indicators to assess school district suitability and guide targeted growth efforts.



The team designed a replicable operational playbook, documenting the expansion methodology to enable Ed Equity Lab to scale its efforts effectively across different states while adapting to local nuances.



Ed Equity Lab was able to identify and prioritize 125 high-impact school districts, focusing on 323 Title I schools that align with its mission to support underserved students, maximize outreach potential and promote greater economic mobility in the communities they serve.



In addition to the expansion model, our team also evaluated the financial implications of Ed Equity Lab's pricing strategy to ensure greater long-term financial sustainability aligned to its five-year strategic plan.



Finally, our Cybersecurity team enhanced Ed Equity Lab's digital systems, by identifying potential vulnerabilities, aligning with industry best practices and equipping the organization with a roadmap for proactive risk mitigation as it partners responsibly with high schools and handles sensitive student information.

OUR ROLE

- FTI Consulting conducted an extensive mapping of school districts using advanced analytics, multiple publicly available datasets and statistical modeling to identify key indicators that drive student success and district readiness for participation in the Ed Equity Lab initiative. This data-driven model ensures Ed Equity Lab can scale with precision, impact and effectiveness.
- The team developed a sophisticated ranking system, synthesizing multiple data points such as demographic trends, educational performance and socioeconomic factors into a dynamic, interactive scoring model. This allows Ed Equity Lab to prioritize school districts based on real-time, data-backed insights.
- FTI Consulting created a detailed, structured playbook that serves as a blueprint for Ed Equity Lab's expansion, incorporating best practices for outreach, partnership engagement and implementation frameworks tailored to various state-level requirements.
- Our team also performed an assessment of Ed Equity Lab's funding streams, developing a high-level financial forecast model that integrated projected enrollment, grant opportunities and partnership funding strategies.
- Finally, our Cybersecurity team conducted a comprehensive security review, benchmarking Ed Equity Lab's existing systems against the Center for Internet Security's ("CIS") 18 Critical Security controls. Our team identified areas for improvement, prioritized remediation steps and developed a phased implementation plan to enhance data protection and compliance with industry standards.

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