Big Idea – Data Reveals Hidden Inequities

Data visualization on a coordinate plane helps us see **real patterns of fairness and inequity** in education. When we graph graduation rates across districts, we can identify which areas have more support and which face barriers. Math becomes a **tool for equity and advocacy** when we use it to ensure every student has an **equal chance to graduate and succeed.**

Math + Equity Example

Graduation Rates by District

District	Graduation Rate	Coordinate Point
A	95%	(1, 95)
B	88%	(2, 88)
C	72%	(3, 72)
D	60%	(4, 60)

When plotted, the points show a **downward trend**—some districts are falling behind. This data highlights **patterns of educational inequity** and helps educators and leaders focus on **resources, mentoring, and opportunities** that close the gap.

Equity Connections

Graduation rates often reflect more than grades—they reveal **differences in access** to quality teaching, stable housing, technology, and family support.
By analyzing this data, we can identify where **resources are needed most** and design systems that **lift all students, not just some.**
Math becomes a way to **visualize fairness** and inspire communities to take collective action toward equity.

Data Reflection

Circle or underline the word that stands out to you most:
graduation | fairness | opportunity | access | success

Share Your Thinking

The word I picked is: _____
I picked this word because:

Reflection:

How does this word connect to what we are learning today?

Student Equity Reflections

1. Which district has the lowest graduation rate? What might this mean for fairness in education?

2. What does the downward trend on the graph tell us about opportunity gaps?

3. What factors could explain why graduation rates differ across districts?

4. What can communities and schools do to help all students graduate successfully?