

Big Idea – Education Influences Opportunity

Functions show how one value (the **input**) affects another (the **output**).

Education often influences income: **more years of education can create access to higher-paying jobs**. But unfair systems—like unequal school funding, biased hiring, and limited access to college—can block this pattern. Math helps us model these relationships so we can **analyze opportunity gaps and work toward educational equity**.

Math + Equity Example

Input (Years of School) → Output (Average Income):

- 8 years → \$25,000
- 12 years → \$35,000
- 16 years → \$55,000
- 20 years → \$75,000

This **input/output table** shows a pattern: as education increases, income tends to rise. However, data also show that **not everyone with the same education earns the same income**. Race, gender, and neighborhood can affect the output even when the input (education) is equal. Understanding these patterns helps us discuss how to **make opportunity more consistent and fair**.

Data Reflection

Circle or underline the word that stands out to you:

equity | opportunity | access | fairness | education

Share Your Thinking

The word I picked is: _____

I picked this word because:

Reflection:

How does this word connect to what we are learning about education and opportunity today?

Student Equity Reflections

1. What does this table show about the relationship between education and income?

2. According to the table, how much more income does someone with 16 years of school earn compared to 8 years?

3. Why do some people with the same education earn different incomes?

4. What changes could help ensure that education leads to equal opportunities for everyone?
