

Big Idea – Math Tells Real Stories

Algebraic expressions can represent **real-life budgets**, showing how money is divided among needs like **housing, food, education, and community resources**. By studying expressions, we can understand how **equitable budgeting** helps ensure every family, classroom, and community has what they need to thrive. Math gives us a way to model, question, and plan for **resource fairness**.

Math + Equity Example

Household Budget Expression:

Let **h = housing, f = food, e = education, t = transportation**

$$\text{Budget} = h + f + e + t$$

If a family earns **\$2,500 per month** and spends:

- Housing = \$1,200
- Food = \$600
- Education = \$400
- Transportation = \$300

Then:

$$h + f + e + t = 2,500$$

Expressions show how **budgets balance needs and priorities**.

When one area costs more than others—like housing—it affects what families can afford for education or health. This helps us talk about **economic fairness** and how resources could be distributed more equitably across families and schools.

Data Reflection

Circle or underline the word that stands out to you:

fairness | equity | budgeting | access | opportunity

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 resource fairness today?

Student Equity Reflections

1. What does this math example show about how budgets can affect families and schools differently?

2. Write the expression for this school budget:

- Teachers = \$4,000
- Supplies = \$2,000
- Technology = \$1,500
- Activities = \$500

Expression: _____

3. Why is it important for communities to think about how resources are shared?

4. What's one way schools could spend money more fairly to support all students?
