

## Big Idea – Why Progress Matters, Not Just Results

Absolute value shows the **distance from zero**, or how far something is from a specific point. In education, we can use it to understand **how far different groups of students are from achieving equity goals**. These “distances” help us see where support is needed most so that **every student has a fair chance to succeed**.

### Math + Equity Example

**Equity Goal Score: 80%**

- **Group A Average = 76%**  
→ Distance =  $|80 - 76| = 4$  points
- **Group B Average = 68%**  
→ Distance =  $|80 - 68| = 12$  points

The **larger the distance**, the further that group is from meeting the goal.

By using math to study these distances, we can identify where **resources, attention, and support** are needed to close the gaps.

### Data Reflection

Circle or underline the word that stands out to you:

**distance | fairness | access | support | equity**

### Share Your Thinking

The word I picked is: \_\_\_\_\_

I picked this word because:

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**Reflection:**

How does this word connect to what we are learning about equity and test scores today?

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**Student Equity Reflections**

1. What does this data show about how far different groups are from the equity goal?

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2. Which group is further from the goal? How many points away are they?

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3. Why is it important to notice the distance between scores instead of only looking at averages?

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4. What actions could schools take to help students who are “farther from the goal”?

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