

CLOSING THE GAPS

School counselors work with other members of the school community to close the gaps that exist between groups of students.

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS: the difference in academic performance seen among groups of K-12 students when data is disaggregated by various cultural variables, including ethnicity/race, gender, social class, disability status, and language status.

OPPORTUNITY GAPS: the difference in academic resources available to K-12 students, which has an impact on who goes to college and into high-paying careers and who does not.

ATTAINMENT GAPS: the difference in who receives college diplomas and who does not based on data disaggregated by ethnicity/race, gender, social class, disability, and language identities, among others.

FUNDING GAPS: the difference in dollars per student spent on education, which contributes to the emergence of the other three gaps for students who are living in poor and working class neighborhoods.

Sources: Chen-Hayes, (2006); Lewis, Chen-Hayes, & Jackson, (2008), in press.