

Educational Inequity in Everyday Schooling & During COVID-19

Erica O. Turner, PhD

Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison

My Background & Perspective

- I study efforts to challenge racism and inequality in education policy and practice.
- My book, *Suddenly Diverse* (University of Chicago, 2020), examines how two Wisconsin school districts' respond to growing diversity and inequality.
- Focus on different ways that people think and talk about inequity, especially racial inequity.... Knowledge that can help inform the terms of policy debates.







Health & Economic Inequities

COVID-19 CONTEXT

Disproportionate economic and health impacts for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Pacific Islander people including **job loss, homelessness and eviction, food insecurity, and death and illness** from COVID-19.



“Opportunity Gaps” Between Students

COVID-19 CONTEXT

Unequal family resources contribute to inequities in students’ access to in-person learning, high-quality remote learning (including the needs), and supplementary educational experiences.



Inequitable School Funding & Resources

COVID-19 CONTEXT


Unequal resources to make schools safe for return (e.g., PPE, staffing) or to do higher-quality remote learning (including providing necessary technology, tech support and access, professional development and collaboration, other resources)



Weakening Support & Funding for Public Schooling

COVID-19 CONTEXT

Attendance and enrollment has dropped in public schools, particularly those with remote schooling (disproportionately schools serving students of color and low-income students).



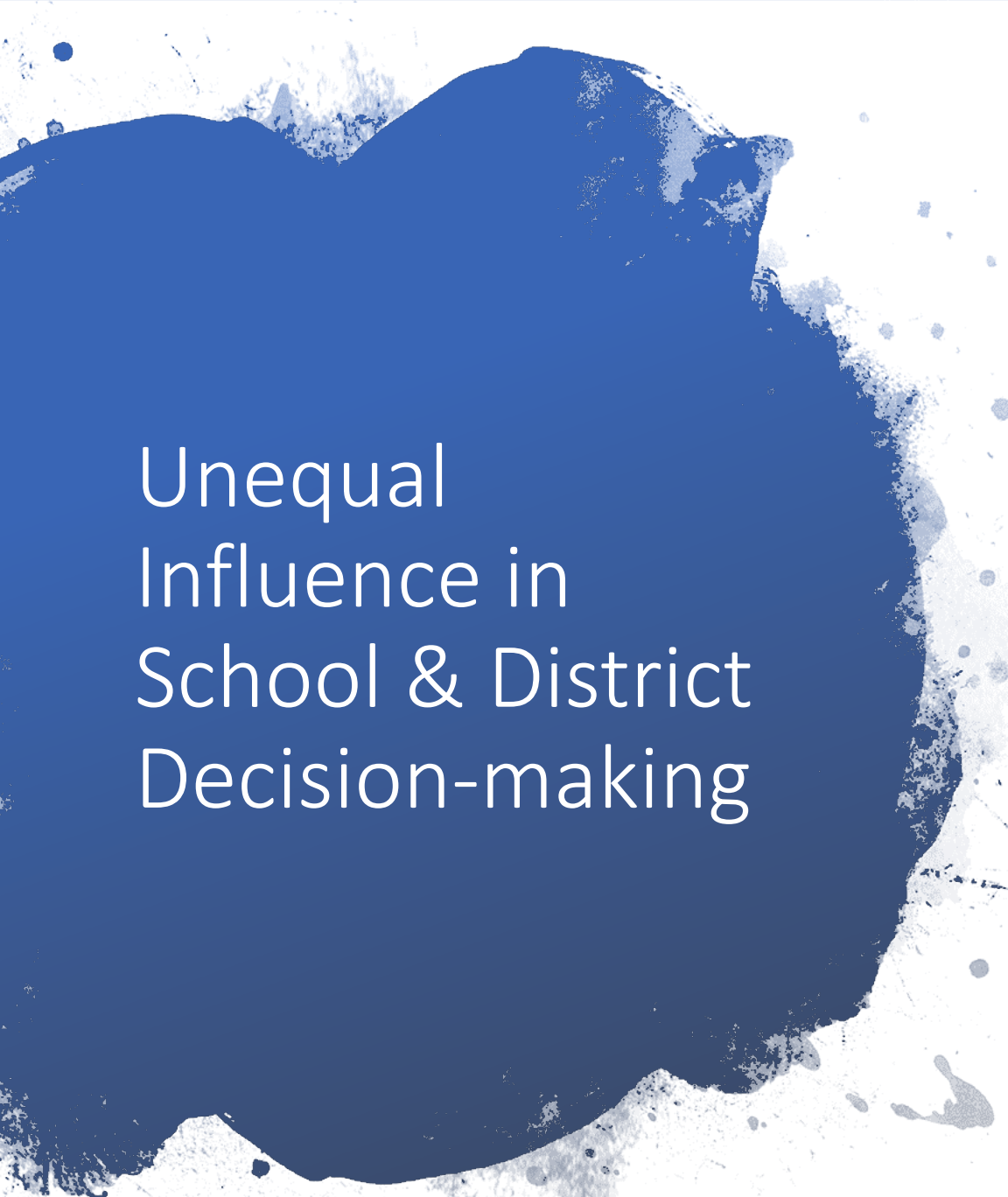
Persistent Inequity and Anti-Blackness in Schools

COVID-19 CONTEXT

Many patterns persist in person or remotely, including silence on anti-Black violence and white supremacy attacks on voting and government.

But, some families report a good experience with remote learning, especially being able to better challenge or address racist elements of schooling.

And, in some cases we see family and community supports for students' education outside of formal schooling.



Unequal Influence in School & District Decision-making

COVID-19 CONTEXT: Similar dynamics are likely; evidence of push to re-open and address “learning loss” while many families of color express distrust of schools to re-open safely and continued concern about health

Summary

Inequities in Health
& Economic Access
& Outcomes

Unequal Influence
in School &
District Decision-
making

“Opportunity
Gaps” Between
Students &
Families

Persistent Inequity
& Anti-Blackness
in Schools



Inequitable School
Funding &
Resources

Weakening Support
for Public Schooling

Thank you!

Erica O. Turner, PhD

Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison

erica.turner@wisc.edu