

Purpose of an Issue Action Team

- Narrows down the interests of LEE and community members from broad problem areas to issues that are specific, immediate, and winnable given the capacity of the LEE team and our community allies.
- Researches the policy and political aspects of educational equity issues to identify the area where LEE members and allies can make the biggest impact on educational equity issues of deep common concern.
- Initiates relationships with community partners who share an interest in the same educational equity issue.
- Develops the public leadership of LEE members and community allies.
- Identifies a specific policy to be changed and crafts an action strategy that will result in a decision-maker changing that policy to advance educational equity.
- Mobilizes the base of LEE members and their networks to engage in all phases of an action campaign.



What an Issue Action Team Member Does

- Invests in relationships with other team members, LEE members, and community leaders through individual relational meetings.
- Attends LEE regional and national organizing trainings – like the National Organizing Workshop – to acquire skills and a common understanding of successful issue campaigns.
- Convenes house meetings of people in his/her network to dig deeper into potential areas for action within the issue area.
- Participates in small-group research actions where team members engage experts and community leaders to understand the political and policy dimensions of issue areas, and to build relationships with potential allies.
- Attends monthly issue action team meetings to track progress on house meetings and research actions.
- Leads action campaigns and organize the constituency of LEE members and community partners (parents, teachers, students, etc.) to participate.

Issue Action Team Leadership

- Issue Action Teams will nominate co-chairs to plan and facilitate meetings, coordinate research actions, and follow up with team members. Usually an RST member will serve as one of the co-chairs.
- Co-chairs do not need to be policy experts in the issue area, but rather should be relational leaders who will foster and develop the leadership and learning of other team members.
- Issue Action Teams may create new roles and responsibilities on an ad-hoc basis as the team moves deeper into the cycle of organizing.