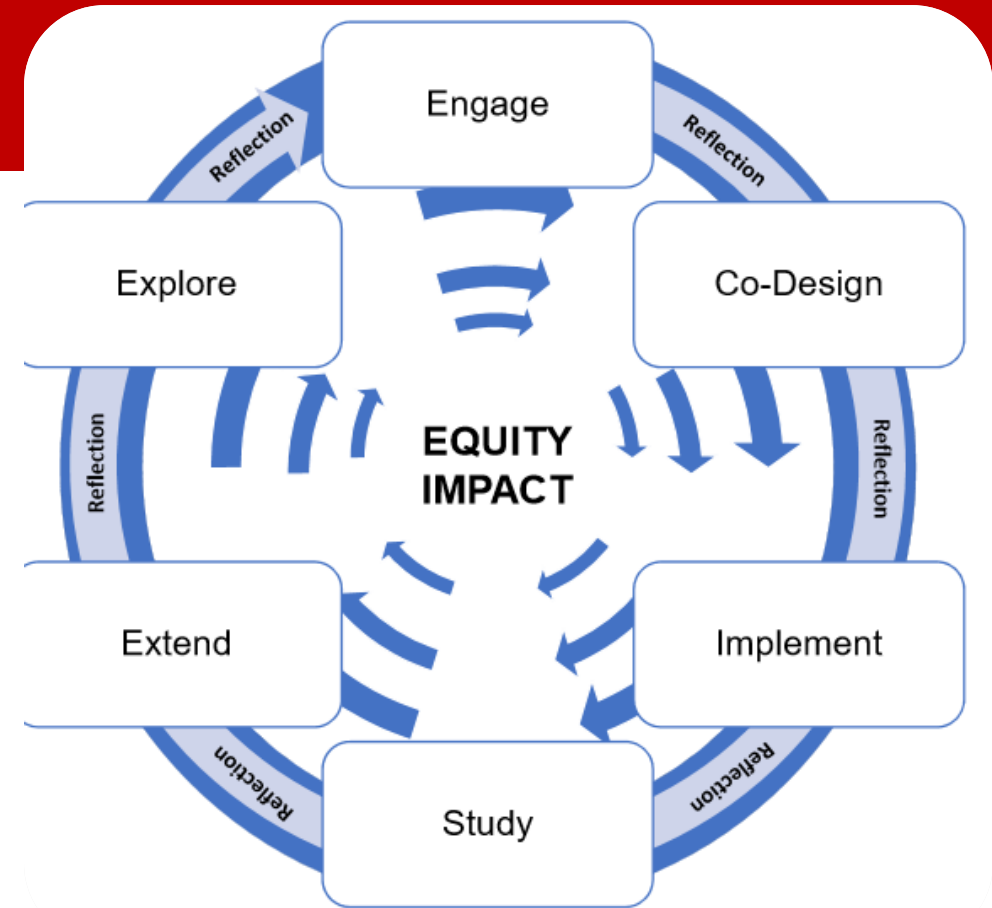


OUT OF PRINT: THE RISING COSTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- Open Educational Resources or OERs provide a viable alternative to reducing the costs of textbook purchases for students
- Textbook costs have risen 945 percent since 1978
- As institutions look to lower costs the state Higher Education Coordinating boards can help
- In Texas the THECB recently announced the Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program which seeks to incentive the use of OERs
- More needs to be done though...



The IEL Equity Impact Framework



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- Policy outcome:
 - Have the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) amend the rules that govern the proposal of new courses, degrees or programs of study to include a provision that any of these proposals demonstrate an examination of the use of an OER to serve as the primary course textbook
- The THECB has the authority to do this according to:
 - Texas Education Code, Title 3: Higher Education, Subtitle: B, Chapter 61, Sub Chapter A, Section: 61.0512. Board Approval of Academic Programs
- The agency can amend its own rules, using the “Negotiated Rulemaking” process described in:
 - Texas Government Code, Title 10. General Government, Subtitle A. Administrative Procedure and Practice, Chapter 2008. Negotiated Rulemaking, Subchapter A. General Provisions
- By adding a statutory requirement the THECB can put in place additional measures to helping reduce the cost of higher education

