

## Office of Education Equity – ISD 709

### Comprehensive Equity & Inclusion Three Year Plan – 2015

#### Overview

#### The Goals

It is recommended that Duluth Public Schools' Board approve the following as program goals for the Office of Education Equity Comprehensive Integration & Equity Three Year Plan – 2015:

**Goal 1---** The Office of Education Equity recognizes Nettleton Elementary School qualifies as a “racially identified school” site. ISD 709 will support the provision of educational services to Nettleton and Congdon Elementary Schools which promote integration through interracial interactive learning experiences.

**Goal 2---** The Office of Education Equity will promote family engagement and will provide training programs for students' families.

**Goal 3---** The Office of Education Equity will provide individual learning experiences and support for students at risk in order to close the achievement gap.

**Goal 4---** The Office of Education Equity will provide staff development for ISD 709 employees that address topics and issues and the development of skill sets in the areas of integration, desegregation, reduction of racism and the strategies to close the achievement gap.

**Goal 5--** The Office of Education Equity will provide Quality Oversight, implementation and evaluation of all OEE programming and related functions.

**Goals 1 and 2** are additions to the programming approach for the Office of Education Equity. The Goals 3-5 were initially submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and approved in 2010 along with the budget revisions. With DPS Board approval this plan will commence July 1, 2012.

#### Funding Outlook – Minnesota Department of Education

DPS is in the third year of its current three year plan. This plan will expire on June 30, 2012. If the above goals are approved by MDE, the new plan will commence July 1, 2012 and expire June 30, 2015. However, it is unlikely that this plan will be funded by this State of Minnesota for its proposed duration.

In a special legislative session that was conducted in July of 2011 it was decided that the Integration Funding Bill would sunset June 30, 2013. This current year is the first year of a two-year funding cycle. The sunset date of June 30, 2013 will conclude the current funding cycle. A Governors Task Force to Replace Integration Funding has been meeting and is scheduled to present its recommendations by February 15 to the Governor. The State Legislature then has the responsibility to modify the funding bill for submission to the Governor.

Not only is the purpose of the funding being reconsidered, but also the funding formulas will be adjusted. Two weeks ago when I attended a Governor's Task Force meeting the proposal to reduce Duluth's funding from \$206 per student to \$129 per student was presented to the Task Force for consideration.

***In all probability the three year plan that we are submitting will have to be modified within the next year.***

### **Financing The Program Changes**

As mentioned above Goals 1 and 2 are new additions. Goal 1 should be considered the "desegregation goal". Goal 2 is a slight modification of a current goal. Goal 1 represents an additional cost area for the Office of Education Equity. In order to finance this cost area certain current areas within the present plan had to be modified for the plan to be submitted.

In order to finance the direction of the new plan please consider the following recommendations approved by the Education Equity Advisory Committee at its last full meeting in January 2012. *In meeting with the Education Equity Advisory Committee on January 24, the following recommendations were made and unanimously approved:*

1. *The Office of Education Equity would provide Nettleton Elementary School with up to \$200,000 to support interracial interactive learning experiences for students of Nettleton and Congdon Elementary Schools for school year 2013. The discussion of the EEAC focused on*
  - a) *Classroom experiences for Nettleton students throughout the day,*
  - b) *Face-to-face learning experiences for students of both schools in all curriculum areas,**and*

- c) The purchase of technology to support continued contact between school classrooms when scheduling, weather, or other circumstances do not support transportation of students for such learning activities. It was recommended that 60 to 80 iPads be purchased to support such a combined interactive programming effort.*
- 2. The Office of Education Equity staff should develop a Three Year Comprehensive Desegregation/Integration Plan for ISD 709 – 2015 for approval by the Duluth School Board and submission to the Minnesota Department of Education. The plan is to include all or part of the following:*
- a. Elimination of Office of Education Equity financial support for Intercultural Leadership Training at Denfeld and East High Schools,*
  - b. A reduction of expenses for Office of Education Equity Culture Centers, this reduction of expense may include cutback of FTE levels and program expenses at each culture center, or the merger of Culture Centers to include a reduction in workforce.*