

Educational Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC)

January 9, 2024

Committee of the Whole



What is the Education Equity Advisory Committee?

- The Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC) is dedicated to fostering diversity among its participants, including various perspectives, communities and organizations. It's designed for active members who are committed to removing structural and institutional obstacles to educational opportunities for all students. The Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC) acknowledges historical barriers that have hindered learning and success based on factors like race, culture, income, and social conditions.



Background

- The revitalization of the Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC) began in December 2021 when around 30 passionate education equity partners collaborated to develop new bylaws for the School Board. These partners included the ISD 709 Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Coordinator of the Office of Education Equity, Duluth Community School Collaborative, educators, support staff, School Board members, parents, representatives from ISD 709 American Indian Parent Advisory Committee, the Department of American Indian Education, and the Gifted and Talented and Families in Transition programs, as well as local NAACP leaders, representatives from the Education Equity Alliance, UMD, LSC, and many others. Because of the connection, community alliance and passion several subcommittees were formed over the summer of 2022.



EEAC Subcommittees Mission & Vision

- The purpose of subcommittees shall be for the Duluth Public Schools to establish and use a Citizens Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and advice on matters of Education Equity to the ISD#709 School Board and district administrative personnel regarding planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of various district initiatives or plans in compliance with MN Statutes and Rules such as the Achievement and Integration Plan, the ESSA Northstar Plan and related policies, procedures, and goals.

These committees act on behalf of the Education Equity Advisory Committee, authorized under school board resolution 1070 and is responsible to ensure that the operations under the scope of the committee are aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Values of Educational Equity.



Current Subcommittees

- **Gender & Equity Taskforce**

- This committee met several times during the 2022-23 school year to work on development of the [Gender Inclusion Policy](#) that was passed and went into effect last year. Duluth Public Schools is the only district in the Northern part of Minnesota with such a policy.

- **Preschool & Early Childhood**

- This committee is currently working on how to increase parent and family engagement as pre-covid there was a higher level of involvement. Hoping to develop some focus groups, coffee & conversation and go to schools to create open forums to share. They would also like to get more information out to American Indian families coming in and how to support them - making sure they are aware of JOM funding and more.

- **Indigenous Education, History, Culture and Language Revitalization**

- Currently seeing lots of results already - a second Ojibwemowin Language teacher was added to the language program that will be funded by ISD709. They are also looking to offer seminars to history and government classes focusing on the facts of Native American history and tribal governments and what they dealt with in the past and present.

- **Community Engagement**

- Meets monthly with district leadership to discuss district equity updates and gives a chance for subcommittee members to ask questions, seek clarity and give recommendations. They are actively seeking more diverse perspectives and representation.

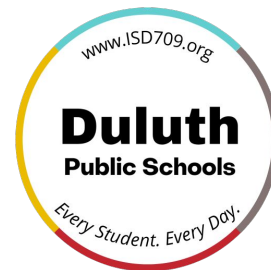
- **Discipline Disparities**

- This group is hoping to give input and help create an addendum to district policy 506 around discipline and adding specific language and restorative practices. They are also exploring the possibility of approaching bargaining units to craft language on equity within each contract.



Current Subcommittees

- **Recruitment & Retention**
 - This committee attends events such as Juneteenth and MLK in hopes of recruiting a more diverse staff to our district. They are also exploring other community events to table at.
- **Families in Transition**
 - The new FIT Coordinator will be working on redeveloping this committee with the intent to include all of the FIT Staff.
- **Hispanic Organization of Latin America (HOLA)**
 - In the 2022-23 school year, this committee hosted a multicultural night at Lowell to celebrate diversity of our community with over 800 people in attendance and plans to continue this tradition.
- **Elementary Education / Read Well by Grade 3**
 - This committee is working hard on engaging the district and groups in the community that are doing similar work. They look at data and see the decline in literacy at Duluth Public Schools within the African American and Native American students and would like to see more funding go towards literacy plans.
- **Denfeld Black Student Association**
 - This is a student ran committee that meets at Denfeld and attends EEAC meetings to share student voices and perspectives. They host many events at Denfeld that focus on the African American history and culture.



Education Equity Charter Development

Many subcommittees have experienced large transitions with leaders and members. This is due to various reasons such as leaving positions, retirement, etc. Because of this a document will be created and used by each subcommittee to define and refine their mission, vision, purpose and goals even more clearly. This will also allow subcommittees to retain focus during leadership or membership turnover and serve as a high level guide for the work they will be doing.

Education Equity Advisory Committee Charter

2023-2024

Title	
Purpose	<p>The purpose of this committee shall be for the Duluth Public Schools to establish and use a Citizens Advisory Committee to provide recommendations and advice on matters of Education Equity to the ISD#709 School Board and district administrative personnel regarding planning, implementation, and/or evaluation of various district initiatives or plans in compliance with MN Statutes and Rules such as the Achievement and Integration Plan, the ESSA Northstar Plan and related policies, procedures, and goals.</p> <p>This committee acts on behalf of the Education Equity Advisory Committee, authorized under school board resolution 1070 and is responsible to ensure that the operations under the scope of the committee are aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Values of Educational Equity.</p>
Mission Statement	
Objectives	
Scope	
Membership	<p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Members:</p>

Roles & Responsibilities of Membership	Term of Committee Membership: TBD
	<p>Member Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent attendance • Solution-focused participation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to follow through on assigned tasks
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Meeting Dates & Times	
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Record Keeping	<p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Members:</p>
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Authority	<p>This committee acts on behalf of the Education Equity Advisory Committee, authorized under school board resolution 1070 and is responsible to ensure that the operations under the scope of the committee are aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Values of Educational Equity.</p> <p>This committee has authority to gather information, network, make recommendations to School board and district leadership and act as an ambassador for the Education Equity Advisory Committee.</p>
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Questions and reflections?

