

Racial Equity Policy: A Roadmap for Closing the Gap

The mission of the Parkrose School District is for each student to reach high levels of reading and critical thinking, graduating college and career ready who become contributing members of society. Our vision is that our students' successful future is not determined by their race. We believe that every student has the potential to achieve, and it is the responsibility of our school district to give each student the access, opportunity and support to meet his or her highest potential. We believe that equity of opportunity and equity of access to all of our educational programs, services, and resources are critical to the achievement of successful outcomes for all of the children whom we serve.

The Board acknowledges that some groups in the Parkrose community are treated inequitably because of individual and systemic biases based on race, religion, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability and socio economic status. The Board further recognizes that such inequitable treatment leads to educational, social, and career outcomes that do not accurately reflect abilities, experiences and contributions of our students. This inequitable treatment, based on consistent educational data, has led to a persistent, pervasive, institutional and systemic achievement gap between white and Asian students, and other students of color in our school district.* The responsibility for these disparities rests with the adults, and not the students.

For the district to meet its mission, the achievement gap must close. Race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, ethnicity, disability and socio economic status cannot continue to be the predictor of student academic success in our district. In order to close this persistent achievement gap, students, teachers, staff and families need to work together to grow and support each student's individual determination to reach high levels of academic achievement. Furthermore, the Parkrose School District will work actively to remove any barriers to achievement that prevent students from reaching their fullest potential, including barriers of institutional racism.

The Board of Education welcomes and empowers all of our families, including underrepresented families, as essential partners in their students' education, school planning and district decision-making. We believe that communities, teachers and community-based organizations have unique and important solutions to improving outcomes for all of our students. Our work will only be successful if we are able to truly partner with the community, engage with respect, authentically listen and have the courage to share decision-making, control and resources.

The Board of Education of the Parkrose School District directs the superintendent to convene, on a monthly basis, a Racial Equity and Data Team composed of a broad variety of membership. The superintendent will, in conjunction with the Equity Team, create Administrative Rules corresponding to this policy that provide actionable steps to reaching the Board's mission of closing the achievement gap. The superintendent will present measurable indicators of success in this endeavor to the school board each year in the month of May. Finally, the superintendent is directed to continue to provide staff training on culturally responsible educational practices such as restorative justice, culturally responsive teaching practice, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

END OF POLICY

**Asian and White are terms used by the State of Oregon's Assessment System. Parkrose School District realizes that the terms "Asian" and "White" are used broadly as there are many ethnicities involved in each designation.*

Legal References: [ORS 329.025](#)