

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Racial Equity Policy: A Roadmap for Closing the Gap

The vision of the Parkrose School District is for each student to reach high levels of reading and critical thinking, graduating college and career ready and become contributing members of society. Our vision is that our students' successful future is not determined by their race, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ethnicity, culture, linguistic difference, religion, immigration status or disability. We believe that every student has the potential to achieve, and it is our responsibility to give each student the access, support and opportunity and support to meet their 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 which will lead to positive, lasting change.

The Board of Education acknowledges that some groups in the Parkrose community are treated inequitably because of individual and systemic biases based on race, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ethnicity, culture, linguistic difference, religion, immigration status or disability. The Board further recognizes that such inequitable treatment leads to limiting 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 students and Asian students when compared to other students of color in our school district.* The responsibility for these disparities rests with us, the adults, and not the students.

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

The Board of Education will reach out to engage, welcomes and empowers all of our families, in particular underrepresented families, as essential partners in their students' education, school planning and district decision-making. We believe that families, 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, an Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Data Team composed of a broad variety of membership. The superintendent will, in conjunction with the Equity Team, create Administrative Regulations corresponding to this policy that provide actionable steps to reaching the Board's vision of closing the achievement gap. The superintendent will present measurable indicators of success in this endeavor to the school board three times per year. Finally, the superintendent is directed to continue to provide staff training on culturally appropriate responsive educational practices such as restorative justice, culturally responsive teaching practice, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and Academic Language for All. This policy will be reviewed annually by the District's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Team, revised as needed and presented to the Board for approval each May.

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, as is true for all racial designations.*

Legal References: ORS 329.025