



## News release

**May 28, 2022**

### **Collection of diverse literature heading to school libraries**

*Everett Public Schools' strategic plan initiative asks for students to see themselves in the learning environment through literature and resources*



Everett, WA--Through a partnership with district librarians, the Equity & Access Advisory Council, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) department, these teams followed and met the districts selection guidelines and policies through a multi-step vetting process to create a booklist of developmentally and culturally relevant literature. The list provides a detailed summary of each book, including literary awards, full-text professional librarian reviews, and learning objectives to support DEI.

“Everett Public Schools is leading with our commitment to creating a sense of belonging and presence for all students,” said Joi Odom Grant, DEI director. “We believe all students, inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, beliefs, sexual orientation, and identity have the right to see themselves and others reflected in our school communities and curriculum.

“We developed a ‘One Voice & One Message’ statement to communicate with all stakeholders

the purpose of the libraries. We are dedicated to providing access to a variety of literature which authentically represents the diversity of our students with the intent of raising intellectual openness, analysis, personal enjoyment, and cultural awareness of others,” continued Odom Grant.

Books will be in school libraries by the end of the school year.

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