

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Everett Public Schools is a diverse, inclusive, and equitable school district where all students, employees, and volunteers, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or physical, sensory, or mental ability should feel valued and respected. The district respects diverse life experiences, heritages, and values, and welcomes the many languages and dialects spoken by its students, employees, and volunteers. All students, employees and volunteers should feel safe, healthy, engaged, and supported by the district.

The district is committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and equitable outcomes for all. We acknowledge the historical role educational institutions have played in creating and implementing policies and practices that result in predictably lower academic and graduation outcomes and disproportionate disciplinary action for students of color. We recognize these disparities contradict our beliefs and values about what students can achieve, and we affirm the important role of adults in ensuring conditions for success. We are committed to removing barriers, and to ensuring students access, opportunity, and inclusion throughout our system.

The district will work to eliminate inequitable practices aggressively and efficiently within our system. We will allocate resources to provide equitable education and environments to all children and families regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education, or physical, sensory, or mental ability.

The board commits to:

- Provide system-wide direction, support, oversight, and shared accountability to advance equity and eliminate inequities in Everett Public Schools.
- Affirm, inspire, and serve each student in our diverse population, especially students who have been marginalized through race or other means, and students who face significant barriers.
- Create opportunities and remove barriers to identify and nurture strengths in each student and to ensure our community can in turn be strengthened by each student.
- Provide ongoing board development and learning opportunities about inequities and biases that impact students, staff, and families in our community, and about effective strategies for addressing them.
- Address inequities and biases that create feelings of fear, lack of belonging, and academic, social, and emotional barriers for students, all of which can contribute to reduced academic participation and performance.
- Ensure our policies directly address racism and occurrences of racial tension in ways that both provide positive guidelines and expectations, and that direct development of robust reporting and investigation processes.

This policy establishes that our district shall:

- See diversity, inclusion, and equity as connected to its mission and critical to promoting the well-being of the staff, students, and communities it serves.
- Dismantle any inequities within its policies, systems, programs, and services, and to consistently update and report on organizational progress.
- Adopt curriculum, and teaching and learning strategies, that leverage, reflect, and affirm the unique experiences and social, racial, cultural, linguistic, and familial backgrounds of the Everett Public Schools community.
- Ensure disciplinary actions are undertaken without bias and/or disproportionality.
- Implement hiring processes that proactively support the district's commitment to hiring, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified staff of color and that promote and honor other aspects of a diverse workforce.
- Provide professional development to staff and students in anti-racist practices, equitable practices, culturally responsive teaching practices, eliminating microaggressions, and bias awareness.
- Expect all employees to embrace equity, inclusion, and belonging, and to express these in values in workplace interactions and everyday practices.
- Develop reporting, investigation, communication, and accountability processes, particularly related to actions of racism and occurrences of racial tension or other discriminatory actions.
- Model diversity, inclusion, and belonging for all students and employees to foster an inclusive environment to achieve equitable outcomes.
- Practice and encourage transparent communication in all interactions.
- Commit time and resources to expanding more diverse leadership within our leadership, staff, and advisory bodies.
- Build a sense of community and belonging among staff to increase retention.
- Create an environment where all families have a sense of belonging and inclusion.
- Review this policy on an annual basis to ensure the commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging remains at the forefront of our work.

This work is guided by the Everett Public Schools' core values that were created in partnership with our community, and are steeped in steadfast commitment to each student's success:

- **Passion:** We are passionate about teaching and learning.
- **Respect:** We value differences among people and treat one another with respect.
- **Integrity:** We act in good faith, serving others with honesty and dignity. We serve as stewards of the public trust.

- **Diversity:** We embrace diversity as an essential asset; we are inclusive and treat our differences as a core strength.
- **Equity:** We honor and support each student's right to learn and achieve.
- **Learning:** We believe each student can learn and achieve to high standards.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in learning and working together, the value of diverse views, and the power of collective wisdom.

Cross references:

[Board Policy 3210](#)
[Board Policy 5010](#)

Nondiscrimination
Affirmative Action and
Nondiscrimination