



DISTRICT 97 NEWS

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This insert is a collaboration between districts 97 and 200 to highlight the critical work of our schools and help conserve fiscal resources.

District 97 Sets Learning Targets, Priorities for 2019-20

District 97 is committed to the vision of creating positive learning environments for all students that are equitable, inclusive and focused on the whole child. We took significant steps last year toward the realization of our vision. Some of our accomplishments from 2018-19 include, but are not limited to:

- **Approval of the district's equity policy by the board of education in March 2019.** This policy, which we will begin implementing this school year, affirms our steadfast commitment to racial equity, seeks to promote a strong sense of belonging in all of our schools, and is aimed at ensuring that every student we serve has access to an excellent and equitable educational experience.
- **Increasing social-emotional supports for students.**
- **Expansion of co-teaching and inclusive teaching practices.**

As we begin this new school year, our vision and new equity policy will serve as the cornerstones for the work we do on behalf of our students, families and community. They will also guide the collective action plan we developed this summer with the help of our school and district leadership teams. This plan will focus on the following student learning targets and district-level priorities:

Student Learning Targets

- Increasing the percentage of students who feel a sense of "belonging" while at school

- Increasing the percentage of students who are present (and on time) at school > 90% of each month
- Eliminating discipline disproportionately of students
- Increasing the percentage of Grade 3 students who are reading at or above grade level
- Increasing the percentage of students who are projected to be college-ready upon graduation from D97

Three District-Level Priorities

- Build and sustain positive culture and climate
- Strengthen instructional effectiveness and student supports
- Foster collective efficacy to ensure high-quality learning experiences for all students

We are committed to providing updates on the progress of our work, as well as creating opportunities for you to share your perspectives, ideas and questions.

Community Feedback Sessions on Equity

District 97 kicked off the 2019-20 school year with two community engagement sessions on equity. The events, held August 14 and 19, were both attended by a diverse group of parents, community members, students and staff who shared openly and honestly about their experiences and concerns.

The information gathered during these

sessions will be combined with feedback from recent parent and student focus groups and upcoming survey responses to inform plans that will be released in late September.

We are grateful for the community's continued support of our schools and the students we serve, and look forward to continuing our conversation and collaboration around the issue of equity.

To follow the district's equity work and review summaries of the engagement sessions, please visit the district website at <http://www.op97.org/equity>.



About the community meetings on equity:

"I was nervous about going [to the parent meeting] – but it was relieving. I didn't know that I wasn't the only one facing some issues. I believe my story helped people open their eyes.

My son is a special needs student, but I felt like we were welcomed. Until now, I couldn't always say that. My son stayed in the child care area, and when he came out smiling, I knew this was good."

– Amber, parent of Myles, 9

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