

The African-American Equity Task Force (AAETF) implementation teams continue to learn and collaborate on existing efforts across the district to help improve the experiences of African-Americans in DPS. This update will focus on key areas of progress that have taken place since January 2018. All work continues to align to the recommendations and with the multi-phase journey set forth for the AAETF.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Formally known as the oversight committee, the Wisdom Team (WT) will advise and work side-by-side with the AAETF implementation teams to ensure the recommendations are effectively implemented and evaluated on an ongoing basis. The second round of interviews for the Wisdom Team members are currently taking place and an announcement will be made once the selection of team members is finalized. The team will be comprised of community members and DPS team members, with additional roles for student voice. Similar to the implementation teams, the Wisdom Team's commitment to the work will be ongoing.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

The Culturally Responsive Education team continues to engage stakeholders from across the district in the design and development of the work. Teachers have been selected to participate in design teams with the task of finalizing a definition for Culturally Responsive Teaching and constructing the mindsets, beliefs and practices of a culturally responsive educator.

DISTRICT AND SCHOOL STRUCTURES TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

These two implementation teams are collaborating on the implementation of Opportunity Gap cohort schools. Though a partnership with Dr. Eddie Fergus, the Opportunity Gap cohort schools receive school-based support through personalized, differentiated activities based upon their current problem of practice. As the first cohort come to an end, we are seeing improvements in closing disproportionalities in discipline actions, intervention plans, and Gifted & Talented/Advanced Placement (GT/AP) programming.

The next Opportunity Gap cohort will expand to 11 additional high schools with high populations of African-American students. Eleven out of 17 schools from the first cohort will continue with a second-year focus on culturally responsive teaching practices.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

If you have not had a chance to visit the Mile High United Way Center for Family Opportunity (CFO), we invite you to do so. The center is located at McGlone Academy, 4500 Crown Blvd., Denver 80239. To learn more about the CFO and the programs and services offered, please visit the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) website at face.dpsk12.org.





AFRICAN-AMERICAN EQUITY TASK FORCE

APRIL 2018 UPDATE

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENGAGE:

African-American Service Provider Directory

The Community and Family Engagement implementation team is taking inventory of current supports that target the African-American community. If you, or an organization you know offer supports such as training, resources, social and emotional supports or programming catered to the African-American community, please complete the form by visiting celt.dpsk12.org. Information will be submitted to the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team, who may contact the organizations for additional details. The deadline to complete the form is Monday, April 30 by 5 p.m. Please contact Imani_Morning@dpsk12.org for questions.

Black Family Advisory Committee (BFAC)

The BFAC is being developed to promote opportunities that empower African-American families, several of which are outlined in this update. If you are a parent or know parents and family members who would like to be involved in the BFAC, please reach out to Dr. Sharon Bailey at Sharon_Bailey@dpsk12.org.

Family Leadership Institute

Enhance your leadership skills and become a stronger advocate at home, in school and in the district. Open to DPS families and the community. Visit face.dpsk12.org or call 720-423-3135 for details.

ED Talks

Join DPS for a speaker series focused around diversity, equity and inclusion. Open to DPS team members, families and the community.

- April 30, 5:30 –7:30 p.m. at Bruce Randolph School, 3955 Steele St., Denver.
- RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/edtalkingapril30>

Equity Boot Camp

Build skills and deepen your ability to infuse equity, inclusion and culturally responsive practices into your work during this one-day program. Open to DPS team members, families and the community.

- May 1 or May 2, 8 a.m.–4p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church, 3701 Colorado Blvd, Denver.
- Learn more and register: celt.dpsk12.org

Superintendent Parent Forum

Engage with Superintendent Tom Boasberg and other district leadership on important issues. Open to DPS team members, families and the community.

- May 3, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., at the PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur St., Denver.
- Visit face.dpsk12.org or call 720-423-3135 for details.

For additional information, including access to recommendations and reports visit:

<http://celt.dpsk12.org/african-american-equity-task-force>

Contact Us: AAETF@dpsk12.org