

Wyomissing Area School District Statement

July 2020

The Board of School Directors of the Wyomissing Area School District (WASD) is committed to engaging our stakeholders to strengthen our understanding and implementation of equity for all students. There are no words that can capture the sadness we feel given the recent events in our nation. **As we prepare for the 2020/2021 school year, we will be reviewing current practices and identifying opportunities for improvement to ensure that all students feel safe and welcome in our District.** We are committed to work to ensure that racism, discrimination and marginalization have no place in Wyomissing Area School District. The Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA) defines equity as follows:

Equity is the just and fair distribution of resources based upon each individual student's needs. Equitable resources include funding, programs, policies, initiatives and supports that target each student's unique background and school context to guarantee that all students have equal access to a high-quality education.

Our District has taken steps in the past to pursue equity for all students and will continue to focus on this important initiative. We look to engage in open dialogue and be active listeners to build upon current policies and programming and develop new areas for education and growth. Our committed actions include:

- Formation of an Equity Taskforce, to include interested students, employees, parents and community members that represent our diverse population. This group will be facilitated by individuals with appropriate expertise/experience and will submit recommendations to help form a District Action Plan.
- Recognition and application of WASD student voice as collected in the 2019 Pennsylvania Youth Survey and through other means.
- Equity education and in-service opportunities for school board members, employees, students and community members.
- Recognition of the importance of equity for all students in annual board and superintendent goals.
- A review of WASD Board Policies.
- Continuation of our 2019-20 initiative in which teams of staff from each school received training from Dr. Tyrone Howard of UCLA through the "Equitable and Excellence" series hosted by the Berks County Intermediate Unit.

We recognize these are beginning steps, and this work must continue, evolve and grow. Education is a powerful tool for change and understanding. We encourage you to utilize the resources that our Administration and Guidance Counselors have provided on our website to help guide conversations with your child around the racial issues and violence our nation is currently facing.

Updates will be provided on our District website at the following link:

https://www.wyoarea.org/our_district/equity_communication_education. Please follow and support this important work and help us ensure these recent events provide an opportunity for the Wyomissing Area School District to strengthen our mission for all students; "Inspiring Excellence, One Spartan at a Time."

**Wyomissing Area School District
Board of School Directors**