

## **101.00 RACIAL EQUITY**

### **PURPOSE**

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) students deserve respectful learning environments in which their racial and ethnic diversity is valued and contributes to successful academic outcomes.

This policy confronts the institutional racism that results in predictably lower academic achievement for students of color than for their white peers. Eliminating our district's institutional racism will increase achievement, including on-time graduation, for *all* students, while narrowing the gaps between the highest- and lowest-performing students.

SPPS acknowledges that complex societal and historical factors contribute to the inequity within our school district. Nonetheless, rather than perpetuating the resulting disparities, SPPS must address and overcome this inequity and institutional racism, providing all students with the support and opportunity to succeed.

### **1. ELIMINATE SYSTEMIC DISPARITIES**

To interrupt systems that perpetuate inequities, SPPS will:

- A. Invite and include people from all races and ethnicities to examine issues and find adaptive solutions, which address the root causes and systems, rather than technical solutions, which provide one-time, situational fixes;
- B. Develop the personal, professional, and organizational skills and knowledge of its employees to enable them to address the role and presence of racism; and
- C. Eliminate practices that result in predictably lower academic achievement for any student racial group compared to peers.

### **2. ENSURE SYSTEMIC EQUITY**

SPPS will implement and lead from a system-wide racial equity plan that stands on three critical pillars: Family, Student and Community Engagement; Leadership; and Teaching and Learning.

#### **A. Family, Student and Community Engagement**

SPPS employees will develop and implement equitable practices for and with our students, their families and other community members including:

1. Intentionally seeking and including students' multiple racial perspectives in the development and implementation of culturally responsive teaching and learning practices and curriculum;

2. Engaging family and community members with staff and students, district-wide and at school and program sites, in the development and implementation of culturally appropriate and effective partnerships between home and school; and
3. Inviting and including community members to bring multiple cultural perspectives to examining and solving issues that arise.

**B. Leadership**

SPPS leaders will ensure that racial equity guides employee actions and leads to improved academic results by:

1. Recruiting, employing, supporting, retaining and continuously developing a workforce of racially conscious and culturally competent administrative, instructional and support personnel;
2. Modeling racial equity in business practices;
3. Replacing inequitable operational practices with systems that support implementation of this policy, and
4. Focusing accountability systems and metrics on racially equitable results.

**C. Teaching and Learning**

SPPS employees will work together to increase their individual and collective capacity to effectively teach a racially and ethnically diverse and changing student population by:

1. Ensuring a positive and academically rigorous school environment that engages all students;
2. Collaborating as teachers and administrators to create and implement culturally responsive instructional practices, curriculum and assessments; and
3. Eliminating practices that lead to the over- or under-representation of any student racial group compared to peers.

**3. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a system-wide racial equity plan with clear accountability and metrics, which will result in measureable academic improvements for SPPS students. The Superintendent shall regularly report progress on the plan and outcomes.

**LEGAL REFERENCES**

- U.S. Const. amend XIV, § 1 (Equal Protection)
- 20 U.S.C. § 1703 (Equal Educational Opportunity)
- 42 U.S.C. § 2000c et seq. (Desegregation)
- 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2 (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- 25 U.S.C. § 452 et seq. (Johnson-O'Malley Act)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.855 et seq. (School Desegregation and Integration)

Minn. Stat. § 124D.71 et seq. (American Indian Education Act of 1988)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, subd. 11 (Agreements with Indian Tribes)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.30 (Classification of Pupils by Race)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.74, subd. 2 (Assignment of Students by Race)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.123 (Race discrimination in Flexible Year Programs)  
Minn. Stat. § 181.59 (Discrimination by Contractors)  
Minn. Stat. Chapter 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
Minn. Rules Part 3535 (Equal Opportunity in Schools)

Garcia et al. vs. The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625: Order, Consent Decree and Final Judgment Dated July 9, 1984, United States District Court for the District of Minnesota (Latino Consent Decree)

### **CROSS REFERENCES**

102.00 - Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination  
415.00 - Harassment, Violence and Other Offensive Behavior  
506.00 - Student Discipline / Rights and Responsibilities Handbook  
601.00 - Educational Programming  
601.01 - Achievement  
602.00 - Curriculum Development, Instruction and Accountability  
602.01 - Multicultural, Intercultural, Non-Racist, Non-Sex-Biased, Gender and Disability Fair Education