



Equity Course Offerings

These course offerings are intended for all certified staff, however, any interested staff members are encouraged to sign up. These courses are voluntary and may cover themes such as race, sexual orientation, and gender.



Keeping Kids in the Classroom - Exploring Alternative Discipline

This course will help teachers and administrators to explore alternative approaches to school discipline. Participants will identify disparities in disciplinary practice in the Iowa City School District and collaborate to take direct action to eliminate those disparities. The focus will be on ensuring that all students retain full access to learning opportunities, even when disciplinary actions must be taken.

30 participants per session.

Instructor: Jeffrey Conner

4:15 PM – 6:15 PM

M April 4th

M April 11th

M April 18th

Decentering the Educator in the Classroom

This session will ask educators to examine the role they play in the culture of the school, and how they can be part of the solution to make their classrooms spaces where all students can feel seen and heard.

10-12 participants per session.

Instructor: Malysa Oblander

Cohort 2

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

SAT April 2nd

SAT April 16th

Cohort 3

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

M May 2nd

M May 16th

Ethnomathematics: The Study of Math as a Cultural Activity

This three-session course will ask participants to examine mathematics teaching and learning through a cultural lens. Educators will approach the mathematics classroom as ethnographers, exploring the origins of our current practices and questioning the hierarchies they produce.

While this session is focused specifically on mathematics, the ideas are transferrable to other content areas and applicable at all grade levels. Participants will be asked to complete a short reading or video each week to inform our discussions.

20 participants per session.

Instructor: Lisa Mellecker

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

T April 5th

T April 19th

T May 3rd

For more information, or if you have trouble signing up, please contact the Equity Department: <https://www.iowacityschools.org/Equity>



WE ARE EVERYWHERE: Paris is Burning

This course will explore the Protest, Power, and Pride in Queer History and culture. Learners will explore often forgotten Herstory and ideas of intersectionality and discuss topics of Race, Sexuality, Class, and Gender discussion focusing on LGBTQIA+. Participants will dive into topics pulled from the documentary "Paris is Burning." This landmark documentary provides a vibrant snapshot of the 1980s through the eyes of New York City's African American and Latinx Harlem drag-ball scene. Paris Is Burning offers an intimate portrait of rival fashion "houses," from fierce contests for trophies to house mothers offering sustenance in a world rampant with homophobia, transphobia, racism, AIDS, and poverty. Participants will be asked to dive into text and research to help use the past to build a better future. In an ever-changing society, it is important to understand the needs of LGBTQIA+ students.

*Mature Content Warning: This session deals with adult themes including sexual content.
15-30 participants per session.*

Love on the Spectrum Season 1 Media Study

This course will highlight and examine inequities and barriers faced by Autistic individuals in schools and their communities through the Netflix series Love on the Spectrum. This course will also include critiques of the series by Autistic individuals and additional reading material.

Participants will be expected to watch episodes of the show outside of scheduled meeting times. If someone would like to participate but does not have access to Netflix, please contact the instructor, Jen Smith, at smith.jennifer@iowacityschools.org to set up alternative streaming options.

*Mature Content Warning: This session deals with adult themes including sexual content.
30 participants per session*

Analyzing Systems of Behavior and Discipline

This course will cultivate educators' abilities to analyze systems and how power and privilege impact groups within the education system. Educators will be challenged to think about how systems engage in power and control and how our own privilege impacts choices within the educational discipline and behavior system. Participants will be able to look at current school policies and reflect on how those policies could affect groups of students differently.

Our district is committed to doing PBIS, and this course is to help you examine how you show up in your classrooms and what you need in order to challenge yourself in regards to bias and privilege.

20 participants per session.

Instructor: Luckett Kiche
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Cohort 1

- T** April 5th
- T** April 12th
- T** April 19th

Cohort 2

- T** April 26th
- T** May 3rd
- T** May 10th

Instructor: Jennifer Smith
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Cohort 1

- TH** April 7th
- TH** April 14th
- TH** April 21st

Cohort 2

- TH** April 28th
- TH** May 5th
- TH** May 12th

Instructor: Heidi Hassen

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

- W** April 6th
- W** April 20th
- W** May 4th



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