

Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Call for Equity

OSBA's mission is to improve student success and education equity through advocacy, leadership and service to Oregon public school boards.

Education equity ensures:

- All students are accepted as their authentic selves, are heard and valued, feel they belong, and achieve high academic and personal standards that empower them to thrive.
- Student success will not be predicted nor predetermined by race, ethnicity, family economics, location, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, culture or any other identity.

Public school boards have unique insights on how to address education equity and systems change in their districts. OSBA is committed to supporting boards in their just and fair distribution of resources based upon each student's needs.

In acting on our commitment to education equity, OSBA will:

Learn and model equitable practices

- Engage OSBA board and staff in ongoing equity training and learning, to include regional outreach and listening sessions.
- Develop and apply an equity lens to OSBA decision- and policy-making.
- Create accountability measures to evaluate OSBA's progress on commitments, to include annual board review of the equity statement and assessment of our commitments.

Acknowledge and support the unique character and needs of each district

- Recognize Oregon's diverse local contexts in advancing equity and racial justice to inform and drive our legislative, policy and communications work.
- Support local school boards in promoting equity and combatting injustices by sharing training, resources, and best practices from around the state and nation.
- Partner with and empower school boards and district leaders to recognize and disrupt bias and systemic racism in education policies.
- Empower local school boards by providing resources and training on the characteristics of high-functioning boards based on research-based collaborative governance models.

Amplify the voices of all communities in statewide decision-making

- Promote the importance of equity and inclusion in education to assure high standards of excellence for every student, particularly those who have been historically marginalized.
- Work towards eliminating persistent opportunity and achievement gaps, in particular those related to systemic barriers to education equity, such as racism, sexism, and other inequities.
- Advocate for and support content standards that cover a broad history of Oregon.
- Promote diversity in educators and educational leadership throughout the state.
- Empower and listen to the voices of all students and families, particularly those who have been historically marginalized.
- Promote standards of accountability for recognition and prevention of racial incidents, bias incidents and hate speech in our schools.