

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

January 28, 2021



Agenda Item: Equity Committee Update and Equity Statement Approval

State Board Priorities: Ensuring Equity in Education
Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
Creating a Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Learning Environment

State Board Role/Authority: The State Board has identified Ensuring Equity in Education, Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation, and Creating a Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Learning Environment as three of its priorities.

Presenter(s): Kimberly Wayne
State Board of Education

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information and approve the Iowa State Board of Education Equity Statement.

Background: An update on the State Board's equity committee will be provided.

IOWA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION EQUITY STATEMENT

The Iowa State Board of Education (State Board) works with the Iowa Department of Education (Department) to provide oversight, supervision, and support for the state education system that includes all public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies (AEAs), community colleges, and teacher preparation programs.

The State Board's mission is to champion excellence for all Iowa students through leadership and service. In order to champion excellence, the State Board developed principles to guide decisions to keep equity embedded in policies and practices and at the forefront of its work. The board acknowledges that removing disparities in the education system is a long-term process, requiring continual efforts that are integral to the success of an equitable Iowa educational system.

The State Board will collaborate and seek the voices of the people it serves.

Below are the principles to guide processes in decision-making and problem-solving with an equity lens.

EQUITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Understand, acknowledge, and address the history and systems that have led to disparities in education to create a system of belief that all students can succeed
- Every student must have equitable access to rigorous learning opportunities
- Recruitment and retention initiatives of educators that reflect the student population is key to creating an inclusive and equitable school environment
- Collaboration among students, educators, community members, policy members and other stakeholders is central to the success of serving all students in the collective process of creating equitable policies and practices
- Dedicate time, funding, and labor resources to address and eliminate disparities