

SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

SMSD

AFFINITY GROUPS (SAG)

WHAT ARE AFFINITY GROUPS?



In accordance with **Board Policy AC**, The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is supporting the establishment of affinity groups, which are assemblies of underrepresented individuals (e.g. LGBTQ+, Hispanic, African American, Jewish, Muslim, etc.) who share common interests, backgrounds, and experiences and who come together to support each other and the district. These affinity groups are intended to support our underrepresented staff, students and the Shawnee Mission School District.

HOW WILL THE GROUPS BE STRUCTURED?

These groups will exist at the desire of students or staff members of a school feeder pattern. Members of advisory groups will govern themselves. A district administrator will be assigned to support each affinity group.



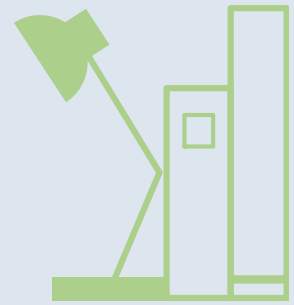
HOW CAN AN AFFINITY GROUP BE FORMED?

A group consisting of at least 5 people can identify themselves as an affinity group. An email sent to the Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion to document the group's formation will constitute an affinity group formation. Groups formed will be listed on the **SMSD website** for others to know whom to contact for joining.



HOW CAN I JOIN AFFINITY GROUP?

Any Individual interested in joining an affinity group should go **here** first to see if one is already formed. If not, once the individual connects with 4 or more others, they should follow the steps above.



AFFINITY GROUP SUPPORT

A member of the Student and Family Services team will support each affinity group established, as needed. Due to COVID-19, all meetings will be virtual and frequency will be determined by the group.

WHEN DO WE START?

Affinity groups will begin forming in January, 2021, and continue as interest is expressed.



"A community's strength is derived from its diversity."



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Visit us at [SMSD](https://www.smsd.org)

Individuals interested in learning more about joining SMSD Affinity Groups should contact: Dr. Tyrone M. Bates, Jr. at tyronebatesjr@smsd.org.

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