

Ferndale School District

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

Overarching all of our work and providing the lens through which we evaluate all of our decisions, we are committed to safeguarding equity and equal opportunity.

We believe our district cannot be truly excellent if it is not also equitable. In a democratic society built on values of fairness and justice, the concept of educational excellence must encompass not only high-quality educational opportunities for each and every student, but also high-level outcomes for each and every one.

1. We are committed to enhancing student learning and development.

We believe that nurturing the development and maximizing the learning of *all* children entrusted to our care is our highest mission. We believe that every child comes to us with unique strengths, and when they are supported by skillful instruction within an equitable context, they can expand their abilities. Therefore, we pledge that advancing the growth of all students will be our primary consideration in all discussions and decisions.

2. We are committed to communicating openly and effectively.

We believe that good communication is vital to the success of any organization, and it is particularly critical in our public school system. Therefore, we will work to achieve regular, transparent, inclusive, equitable two-way communication at all levels – with students, staff, parents, and community members, as well as among ourselves as School Board members.

3. We are committed to managing resources responsibly and productively.

We believe the way we allocate resources significantly impacts our ability to serve the growth and learning needs of children. Therefore, we are dedicated to the careful use of all resources -- people, time, facilities, and money, along with other less tangible but essential resources like trust, vision, ideas, energy, and hope -- in ways that promote equity and support District priorities.

4. We are committed to honoring, celebrating, and embracing our diverse community.

We believe that our public schools belong to our entire community and our diversity makes us stronger. To capitalize on this strength, we are dedicated to energizing and integrating all aspects of our community to ensure equitable support of our children and their learning.

5. We are committed to ensuring the safety of each student and staff member.

We believe that safety is a basic need and fundamental right of every person. A sense of safety is critical for learning and development to occur. Therefore, ensuring the physical, social and emotional safety of all our students and staff in an equitable manner is an essential priority within our school system.