



Inspiring Students Today for Their Success Tomorrow

Trenton Public Schools: Continued Commitment to Safe and Equitable Education

By: Stephanie O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent

A school culture that provides a safe and equitable learning environment is crucial to ensuring all students reach their potential. Over the last two year, Trenton Public Schools has listened intently to the students and community on how we can make an impact in the learning environment for our students. This includes the work of the Superintendent's Parent and Student Councils. We believe diverse viewpoints and backgrounds make our classrooms and our society stronger and more engaged. The question we must ask is how do we shape or reshape our existing realities? Our vision continues to be one that will expand the capacity of the staff, navigate change and continue to create safe and inclusive schools.

Over the last two years, our administration and high school staff has worked with Dr. Velicia Humes and Virginia Winters, leaders in culture and climate from Wayne RESA. These consultants lead focused conversations around building cultural competence and examining traditions that may be impacting the school community. As we continue building our capacity, we will provide staff and administration opportunities to participate in professional development topics provided by Wayne County RESA to include: Reaching and Teaching Students of Poverty, Welcoming LGBTQ Students in Our Schools, Culturally Responsive Instruction, Academically and Socially Supporting African-American Males, and African-American Girls. In addition, our high school staff will be focusing on culturally competent lessons through their departmental work with Wayne RESA Core Consultants. In addition, the middle school and elementary schools are receiving Trauma Informed Leadership training to ensure the support for our students is accessible through every building and staff.

Students deserve the best district we can give them and in order to meet their needs we will plan to fully engage around topics of race, social justice, trauma and equity. As we move forward, we will be intentional in our continued commitment to ensure all students reach their potential. We continue to be hopeful for a future in which young people of all backgrounds come together to learn and succeed together.

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