



Lake Oswego School District



Culture of Belonging Advisory Committee Charter

Mission:

We are a learning community dedicated to creating a culture of belonging and educational excellence.

Vision:

We inspire students to be critical thinkers who are empowered to contribute positively in a complex world

Background:

On February 7, 2022, the Lake Oswego School Board issued a resolution recognizing Create a Culture of Belonging to be a new school board advisory committee in line with its strategic plan priorities. Educational spaces that foster a sense of belonging provide an environment that encourages risk-taking, allows for a cooperative spirit, models acceptance, encourages divergent thinking, promotes appreciation of others, practices empathy, and recognizes the unique contributions that each individual makes to the group.

The committee’s perspectives and work will be critical to understanding the district’s efforts and provide deeper insight into the needs of student focal groups experiencing inequities, the feasibility of implementing change, and the effectiveness of current initiatives.

Committee Charge:

The Committee will create a platform for the community’s new student and family onboarding program.

Information to Consider

1. Framework to support the concept of belonging that prioritizes high-quality teacher/staff-student relationships and creates a supportive learning environment;
2. Professional development for addressing biases and their impacts on student learning;
3. District’s hiring and retention practices and ensure oversight and accountability toward eliminating barriers;

Indicator	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Students and families report feeling welcome at their school and have	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%

collaborative relationships with their classmates and teachers. (Youth Truth Survey)					
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They will be charged with helping to shape a diverse learning community where each and every individual feels supported, connected, and valued, to which they will advise the School Board and support administrative committees in identifying opportunities.

Committee Membership:

The Lake Oswego School Board will create a standing advisory committee focused on creating a culture of belonging. Committee membership will be offered, but not limited to, representatives of the student body, teaching faculty, classified employees, district administration, parent/guardian and community. Up to 10 members on the advisory committee. A Committee Chair will be selected from the committee. The committee will be working with the Executive Director of Human Resources, the Equity Administrator, and the liaison from the Lake Oswego School Board who will provide oversight.

Meeting Dates:

- The Committee will meet monthly from September to May or as requested by the Committee Chair, School Board, or District Staff.
- Committee meetings are advisory and not related to formal decision-making by the Lake Oswego School Board. Committee meetings may, at the discretion of the committee, include an opportunity for public comment.
- The Lake Oswego School District Teaching and Learning, Student Services, and Human Resources departments will provide support and staffing to the Committee.
- The Lake Oswego School District staff will provide necessary technical and administrative assistance as follows:
 - a. A meeting room, including any necessary audio/visual equipment;
 - b. Preparation and copies of any documentary meeting materials, such as agendas and reports; and distribution of those materials to the committee in a timely manner;
 - c. Preparation of Committee meeting minutes and posting for public viewing and use on the Lake Oswego School District website; and
 - d. Lake Oswego School District staff will attend committee meetings.

Terms of Office:

1. A term of appointment shall be two years. Committee advisory members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
2. Individuals who have served less than one year as an appointee to fill the unexpired term for an individual who has resigned, moved from the area, dropped because of irregular attendance, etc., shall be eligible for an appointment to a full term in addition to the term served. Individuals may not serve on more than one board advisory committee at the same time.
3. The membership year shall be July 1 through June 30 of the following year.