



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Valley Stream 24 Schools

The Valley Stream 24 Board of Education is committed to advancing the issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in our schools. Why is DEI important and what does it mean for our district?

Diversity is who we are: our students, staff, and families come from an extraordinary number of backgrounds. Therefore, it is important to appreciate that representation matters in our school classrooms, our curriculum and amongst our education professionals.

Equity is the state we achieve when we ensure that all students, staff, and families can equitably access everything they need to fully realize their potential.

Inclusion is the important, intentional act of bringing diverse students, staff, and families together in a manner that celebrates and values their backgrounds.

The Valley Stream 24 Board of Education created a DEI committee which has established a mission and vision for its work that is a source of pride for the ongoing evolution of our schools.

The Mission of the DEI Committee is to ensure the equitable education of each and every student. We treasure the richness of our diverse community and value each staff member's and each family's experiences and contributions to our schools. We acknowledge and accept that there are systemic and institutional obstacles to creating equity for all students, staff, and families. This committee will identify any fairness gaps and make recommendations to the Board of Education to mitigate them. To accomplish this the committee will:

LISTEN to the experiences of all who are part of the Valley Stream 24 community

IDENTIFY institutional obstacles to fully valuing the high regard we have for:

- the rich contributions of our diverse population
- the necessity of equal opportunity
- the inclusion of all members of our community

ADOPT substantive ways to:

- craft policies/practices that celebrate the power of our diversity, equity and inclusion
- improve our hiring processes to prioritize DEI commitments

MEASURE our progress through formal evaluation and by continuing to listen

As the committee continues its work, we will take the opportunity in upcoming messages to share the district's DEI success stories and their power to move our district ahead. We look forward to the committee's first full report to the Board of Education in June 2021 and will be honored to share it with our community.