



# NEWS RELEASE

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*News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020*

## GCPS keeps eye on equity as it heads back to school

As the 2020-21 school year begins, Gwinnett County Public Schools continues its work and commitment to educational equity in the school district. In particular this work will focus on six areas that support the Board of Education’s Equity Policy. Those areas are: Educational Opportunities and Expectations, Teaching and Learning, Student Support, Community Engagement and Partnerships, Facilities and Assets, and Human Resources, Leadership and Staff. For each area, a team will meet for a nine-week period, identifying current procedures and proposing improvements to support educational equity. The teams will analyze and improve the structures, systems, and support needed to promote educational equity throughout the district.

**Dr. Tommy Welch**, the district’s Chief Equity Officer, will update the members of the Gwinnett County Board of Education on the work of these teams. At the August School Board meeting, Dr. Welch will share the list of team members taking part in this review. Following that initial report, the Board will learn more as information becomes available about the improvements developed in procedures, accountability measures, and the findings of both internal and external equity reports. As part of the process, the community will have the opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed equity procedures. All of these reports will culminate with an annual report on equity.

“Equity is not a program nor an initiative,” says Dr. Welch. “It is an essential part of the fabric of this organization. We are committed to educating all students and to providing the resources needed to support high-quality teaching and learning. Our commitment to educational equity in Gwinnett County Public Schools focuses on increasing student achievement while ensuring all are welcomed and valued.”

### Gwinnett County Board of Education

**Louise Radloff**  
2020 Chairman  
District V

**Carole C. Boyce**  
2020 Vice Chairman  
District I

**Steven B. Knudsen**  
District II

**Dr. Mary Kay Murphy**  
District III

**Everton Blair, Jr.**  
District IV

**J. Alvin Wilbanks**  
CEO/Superintendent

### The Mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools

*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW  
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978  
678-301-6000  
[www.gcpsk12.org](http://www.gcpsk12.org)

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of



the broad prize for urban education

### Gwinnett’s Educational Equity

#### Policy:

The Gwinnett County Board of Education is committed to educating all students and to providing the resources needed to support high-quality teaching and learning. The district’s focus on increasing student achievement, access and opportunities through the implementation of equitable and inclusive educational and workplace policies and practices reduces barriers and builds the district’s capacity to deliver innovative, effective, and culturally relevant services.

The Board of Education authorizes the CEO/Superintendent and his or her designee to design or redesign systemic programs and initiatives to address and reduce educational inequity, providing students and staff with targeted supports and enrichment that increase opportunities to succeed.

**Educational Equity:** Providing access to ensure that all students have the knowledge and skills to succeed as contributing members of a global society, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, English proficiency, faith, socioeconomic status, or disability.

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