

Strategic Plan-Next Steps: Equity Standards

Issue: H 794 has been introduced to the legislature that would establish a working group to advise the State Board of Education and the legislature on matters including:

1. The degree to which the current adopted standards adequately represent issues that are addressed through ethnic studies standards.
2. The degree to which the current adopted standards/rules encourage schools to develop students' capacity to succeed in culturally and socially diverse settings.
3. The degree to which current and future school district policy is responsive to creating inclusive school communities where bias and discrimination are reduced/eliminated/addressed.

Resources: The Agency of Education (AOE) has been investigating resources to identify ways in which we can be more responsive to concerns for equity in our schools. Below are some of the resources we have identified.

1. The degree to which the current adopted standards adequately represent issues that are addressed through ethnic studies standards.
 - a. ELA and Math- [link to Washington State Common Core Sensitivity and Bias Study](#)
 - b. Science- [link to Illinois Cultural Sensitivity Review of NGSS](#) and [link to NGSS Cultural Sensitivity Review](#)
 - c. We have not yet found bias reviews for other standards or content areas
2. The degree to which the current adopted standards/rules encourage schools to develop students' capacity to succeed in culturally and socially diverse settings.
 - a. [Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards](#)
 - b. C3- Particularly the Anthropology Companion
3. The degree to which current and future school district policy is responsive to creating inclusive school communities where bias and discrimination are reduced/eliminated/addressed.
 - a. [National Equity Project Case Studies](#)
 - b. [Washington Department of Education- Guidelines for selecting bias-free instructional materials](#)

AOE Recommendations:

1. **Content Area Standards and Policy:** AOE recommends the Board add to its annual work plan a holding space to review the Working Group's plan in November 2018. If the bill does not pass, ask the AOE to provide a work plan with the same focus.
2. **Social Justice Standards:** AOE recommends the Board consider one of the following approaches:
 - a. Discuss if "cultural and social competency" should be added to the transferable skills or
 - b. Discuss if a new Education Quality Standard (EQS) should be added to the EQS to explicitly highlight the responsibility to develop culturally and socially responsive students