



April 10, 2008

To: Board of Education
From: Art Rainwater
Subject: Equity: Process for Planning and Decision Making - Draft

Attached is the next draft of the document, Equity: Process for Planning and Decision Making. It reflects changes discussed at the March 31, 2008 Board meeting.

This topic will be on the agenda for the April 21, 2008 Special Board meeting.

Please send to me any suggestions you would like incorporated in the document.

AR/SH:aw
Attachment

PKTS 4/10/08

Equity

Process for Planning and Decision Making Madison Metropolitan School District, Board of Education Draft prepared following discussion at Special Meeting March 31, 2008

Definition: (Approved by the Board of Education - Special Meeting March 31, 2008.)

Equity means the deliberate allocation of resources to provide full and meaningful access to comparable educational opportunity to assure that all MMSD students have the academic and interpersonal skills to be successful adults.

Assumptions: (Excerpt from the Equity Task Force Report, "Guiding Principles.")

- A. Schools will be excellent only when students of all economic and demographic groups are achieving at high levels.
- B. Schools should reflect fairness and high expectations for all learners.
- C. Achieving equity often requires an unequal distribution of resources and services in response to the unequal distribution of needs and educational barriers.
- D. Strong district and building leaders with a focus on equity are critical factors to achieving equity.
Strong leaders are needed in the district and in every school.
- E. Every Madison school will be equally desirable and of the highest quality.

Goals

- 1. The district will eliminate gaps in access, opportunities, and achievement by recognizing and addressing historic and contemporary inequalities in society.
- 2. The district will recognize and eliminate inequitable policies and practices within MMSD.
- 3. The district will recognize and eliminate inequalities in and among schools.

~~Considerations for Making Resource/Allocation Decisions:~~

Considerations for Determining Whether Equity Is or Will Be Provided:

Is this a **base resource or allocation that is needed equally for all students?**

~~Is there valid research demonstrating that differentiating this resource or allocation will contribute to eliminating achievement predictability based on inherent characteristics of the child?~~

Does research show that the barriers causing disparity in achievement, based on factors the child brings to school, will be significantly affected by this decision?

Does this decision....

- 1. provide equal access to enrollment in classes, programs and schools?
- 2. distribute resources based on student/school needs?
- 3. create a climate that welcomes and values all students, families and community members?
- 4. support mixed-ability classrooms and provide resources for differentiated curriculum and instruction where appropriate?
- 5. compound or alleviate an existing problem?