

Message from Director

For my entire life I have been an advocate for Human Rights. I am fully committed to do what it takes to treat everyone equally, with respect, fairness and dignity.



The same belief holds true for us at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. We have taken steps to ensure that programs, policies, procedures and the culture of our organization reflect the diversity of our staff, students and community.

We know that our students come to school with many languages, cultures, and backgrounds. While our main objective is to educate our students to be productive members of our society, we must first identify their needs.

That is why we are conducting the Student Equity Inventory. The information we receive from this survey will be used to expand programs or give additional resources to help students achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your support as we move forward to provide equity for all. Together, we will continue to show our children to value themselves and the differences in others.

For our students,

Dr. Chris Spence
Director of Education

Equity Policy Statement

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is committed to the principles of equity through inclusive programs, curriculum, services, and operations, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code and the *Education Act*.



Contact Information

For more information about the Student Equity Inventory, please visit:

www.hwdsb.on.ca/equityinventory

Equity Department
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8P 1H6

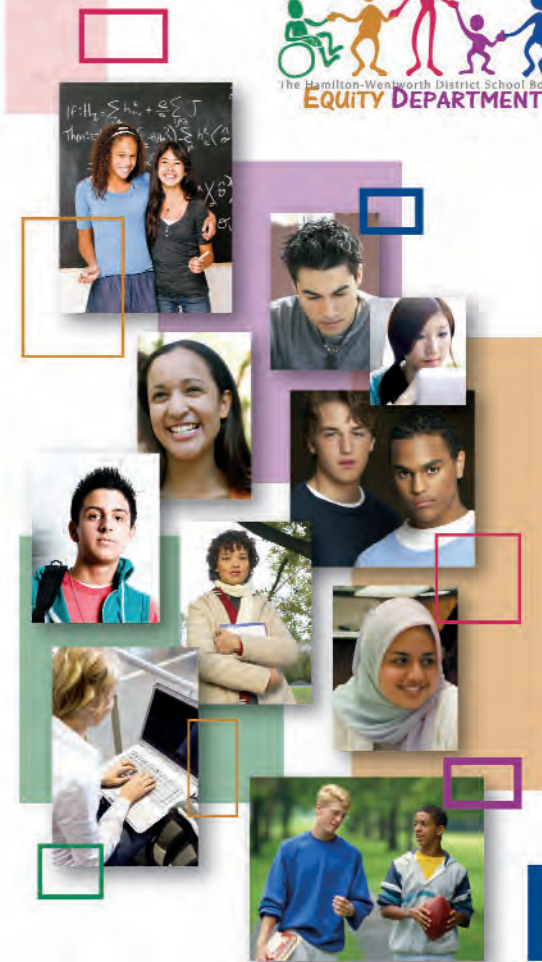
Contact: Gail Belisario, Principal of Equity
Phone: 905-527-5092 ext. 2315
Fax: 905-521-2550
E-mail: info@hwdsb.on.ca

Or contact the Principal at your child's school.



Thank you to our community partners!

STUDENT EQUITY INVENTORY



Equity and Excellence for All!



What is Equity in Education?

Equity in Education is creating opportunities for all students to achieve success regardless of culture, ethnic origin, faith, gender, physical or mental disability, race, sexual orientation, or social or economic background.

Students can achieve their full potential when they are given resources and have access to an education that fully meets their needs.



Why do we need a Student Equity Inventory?

More and more, teachers and Principals are paying attention to the use of data in making decisions about programming for their students.

The Student Equity Inventory will give more information about the needs of our students.

Only through the use of this data can we address the specific needs of our students to ensure equity in education and take them to new heights of achievement.

Student Equity Inventory

The Student Equity Inventory will be:

- Completed on-line in a safe environment
- Voluntary, confidential and anonymous for all Grade 10 and 11 students
- Monitored by a staff member to ensure privacy
- 15 minutes in length

Timelines

May – June 2009

Principals will schedule a time for students with parental consent to complete the survey.

July – August 2009

E-BEST, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's research team, will analyse the results.

September – November 2009

Student Equity Inventory Report released to the Board of Trustees and to the public.

Staff, Parents and Student Expectations

PARENT

Parental involvement is essential to this process. In order for a student to complete the survey, permission **must** be given from their parent/guardian.

STUDENT

All responses are anonymous and individual survey results will be kept secured and confidential. Permission must be given by the student to write the survey. Students are asked to answer honestly and respect the sensitivity of the subject matter.

STAFF

Staff will have opportunities for cultural proficiency awareness training. Staff will be on-site to supervise the survey.

Program Initiatives



Information from the Student Equity Inventory will provide opportunities that will meet the unique needs of our students. The following programs are examples of existing initiatives in our schools that have been created based on an identified need.

NYA WEH PROGRAM

The Native Youth Advancement with Education Hamilton (NYA WEH) program was started in 2003 by Aboriginal leaders for Aboriginal students (First Nations, Métis and Inuit).

NYA WEH teaches students peer leadership, teachings from elders, and culturally specific after-school activities. The program, offered at Sir John A. Macdonald, employs two Aboriginal Youth Advisors and a Cultural Outreach Worker.

G-STARS

Glendale Students Talking Against Racism, also known as G-STARS, is a Social Justice group at Glendale Secondary School who raise awareness amongst youth of such issues as Racism in the Media, Poverty, LGBTQ and Youth Leadership in the Community.

POSITIVE SPACES

Students from Hill Park Secondary School have taken proactive measures to address and reduce homophobia through the creation of a Positive Space to raise awareness of sexual diversity and gender diversity in their school.

