

Westerly Public Schools Equity Statement

The Westerly Public Schools (WPS) district mission statement reads:

To create an inspiring, challenging, and supportive environment where students are encouraged and assisted in reaching their highest potential.

We at WPS believe that striving for equity is paramount for this mission to be realized.

At WPS, equity means that **all students** are ensured the support, resources, and assistance they need to excel at their full potential. WPS is intentional, purposeful, and strategic about honoring all people because of and regardless of their differences. Simply put, every student gets what every student needs.

What do we believe?

- We believe:
 - A culture of honor and mutual respect is critical to fostering cognitive and social growth for students.
 - Equity is being conscious of and proactive with our efforts to best meet the needs of all members of our community.
 - Inclusion means creating an environment where all participants and constituents are valued and can be their best selves, irrespective of background, experience, and lifestyle.
 - Every student deserves the opportunity to learn in an environment that is grounded in responsive practices.
 - We must focus on equity and inclusion to put our vision into action.
 - Change is possible and necessary if we hope to do better by each and every student.

How do we get there?

- We need:
 - To work together as students, parents, faculty, and administration through a variety of measures, policies, and programs and to maintain the kind of inclusive community critical to fostering cognitive and social growth.
 - To build a culture of mutual respect with all stakeholders through honest and open dialogue about bias, equity, and identity, including but not limited to socioeconomic, gender, race, language, and differently abled statuses.
 - To support and sustain an educational community that challenges and reflects on our own ideas, beliefs, and conceptions for growth and change to occur.
 - To be persistent in identifying data—qualitative and quantitative—that helps address and transform systems/policies/practices which inhibit access and opportunity.

This work is continuously evolving and rooted in kindness, compassion, and the desire to enrich our community. We commit to examining potential barriers to full participation and continually ask the question, “How can we do this better?”