

## Hamilton County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually in February	Descriptor Term: <b>Educational Equity</b>	Descriptor Code: 6.501	Issued Date: 03/18/21
		Rescinded:	Revised:

The Hamilton County Board of Education believes that every student in the Hamilton County Schools should have the opportunity to receive an excellent public education regardless of the community in which they live, the school they attend, or the social, economic, or demographic factors of their household.

Therefore, the Hamilton Board of Education has defined the following terms to demonstrate its commitment to Educational Equity in Hamilton County Schools:

**Closing the Opportunity Gap** – Serving all students and intentionally responding to individual student needs, such that every child can perform at high levels and access the full range of social, emotional, and academic supports to develop the whole child.

**Equity** – Ensuring every student receives what they need to help them reach their full potential, regardless of race, language, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, physical abilities, or any other characteristic of their identity. In education, equity means that every student has access to effective teachers, resources, experiences, and the academic rigor they need to be successful regardless of socioeconomic status.

**Diversity** – Understanding, accepting, and respecting differences between people.

**Inclusion** – Including a person within a group or structure; not simply tolerating or welcoming a person, but creating a sense of belonging by intentionally engaging, accommodating, and involving them.

**Cultural Competence** – Functioning comfortably in cross-cultural settings and to interact harmoniously with people from cultures and races that differ from one's own; understanding, communicating with and productively interacting with people across cultures.

**Expectations** – Strongly believing that something will happen or be the case in the future; believing that someone can and will achieve something. In education, this is not a neutral term; it conveys positive expectations of universally high achievement.

Accordingly, the Hamilton County Board of Education adopts this Educational Equity policy to authorize and direct the Administration of the Hamilton County Schools to develop an Educational Equity Plan. The Educational Equity Plan should have the purpose of closing the opportunity gap and creating equity for all students in Hamilton County Schools; strategies for achieving this purpose include, but are not limited to: valuing diversity; increasing

opportunities for inclusion; building cultural competency; identifying and eliminating any potential barriers to student success; and setting rigorous expectations for all students.

The Educational Equity Plan shall be shared with the Board annually, and Administration will update the board on quarterly.

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Legal References:

1. TCA 49-1-211(a)
2. TCA 49-5-1002(1)

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Cross References: