

Equity Achievement Plan

As of November 2021 (updated version); 2nd edition



Mission: Anoka-Hennepin School District is committed to creating equitable learning environments which provide access, representation, meaningful participation, and highly positive outcomes for each student.

Under the direction of our School Board, we partnered with the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center to conduct an Equity Context Analysis to identify opportunities for system improvement, which resulted in the following Equity Achievement Plan. This plan identifies specific goals, strategies, and actions to create opportunities for lasting educational equity and excellence in Anoka-Hennepin Schools for all.

I. Educational Equity and Achievement for All

Anoka-Hennepin School District is committed to creating equitable learning environments which provide access, representation, meaningful participation, and highly positive outcomes for all students. *Educational equity* is when educational policies, practices, interactions, and resources, are representative of, constructed by, and responsive to all students such that each individual has access to, can meaningfully participate and make progress in high quality learning experiences that empower them towards self- determination and reduces disparities in outcomes regardless of individual characteristics and cultural identities (GLEC, 2012).

II. We are Anoka-Hennepin

The Anoka-Hennepin School District is one of Minnesota's largest, serving approximately 37,500 students and 247,000 residents. Spread out across 172 square miles, the district is made of 13 suburban communities north of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The district serves 13 communities: All of Anoka, Champlin and Coon Rapids, and parts of Andover, Blaine, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Dayton, Fridley, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove and Ramsey. Anoka-Hennepin has 26 elementary schools, six middle schools, and five traditional high schools, plus alternative middle and high school sites and K-12 virtual school options.

Student demographics continue to grow in diversity across race, ethnicity, language, and economic status.

Race and ethnicity: Today, approximately 60% of Anoka-Hennepin students are white and 40% are students of color (15% black, 9% Asian, 8% two or more races, 7% Hispanic, and less than 1% American Indian or Pacific Islander). In the early 2000's, approximately 10% of the Anoka-Hennepin student population were students of color. A decade ago, just over 20% of our students were students of color. It is projected that students of color will become the majority and white students the minority within the next decade.

Language: Today, approximately 8% of Anoka-Hennepin students are English language learners (12% of elementary students, 6% of middle school students, and 5% of high school students). The percentage of students identified as qualifying for English language services has quadrupled since the early 2000's. Although the proportion of students learning academic English has stayed fairly stable over the last decade, the diversity of languages spoken has increased

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Economic Status: Today, over 30% of students qualify for free or reduced price services and this is likely an underestimation given that families haven't been required to fill out the application to receive services for the past two years due to the pandemic. In the early 2000's, only about 15% of our students qualified for free or reduced price services. Along with more of our families experiencing greater economic hardships, a difference today is that more of these families are eligible for free, rather than reduced, price services. In addition, almost 4% of our students lack a fixed, regular night-time residence and are eligible for McKinney-Vento support services to help stabilize their educational experience.

Anoka-Hennepin employs approximately 3,000 teachers and 200 principals, assistant principals, and district administrators. Just over 96% of teachers and 87% of administrators are white while less than 4% of teachers and 13% of administrators are people of color.

Anoka-Hennepin student and staff demographics are very similar to Minnesota as a whole. The student body is changing dramatically while the staff working directly with students remains fairly homogenous.

A. Mission Statement

It is the primary mission of the Anoka-Hennepin School District to effectively educate each of our students for success. To fulfill this mission, the school district is accountable for:

- Providing a caring, highly trained and effective staff who use research-based best practices.
- Providing learning opportunities that meet the individual learning needs of each student.
- Monitoring student achievement to maximize each student's learning.
- Promoting high achievement for all students.
- Acknowledging parents' roles as their children's primary educators and partnering with them to increase student success.
- Improving connections with the community to foster public involvement with and understanding of our educational programs.
- Providing a safe and respectful learning environment.
- Using all resources efficiently and effectively.

B. Vision Statement

It is the vision of the Anoka-Hennepin School District to be a public school system of excellence, with high quality staff and programs and successful graduates.

C. Core Values

- Respect to show consideration for self, others, and property
- Responsibility to carryout obligations in a dependable manner; to acknowledge consequences and rewards of one's choices; to contribute to society
- Appreciation of diversity to recognize and honor the dignity of each individual; to celebrate differences among culture, gender, ability; to work cooperatively with others and to resolve conflicts
- Integrity to display honesty, perseverance, confidence, and pride, trustworthiness and the courage of one's convictions
- Compassion to show empathy, generosity, kindness, patience, and sensitivity

III. Continuous Improvement and Goal Setting

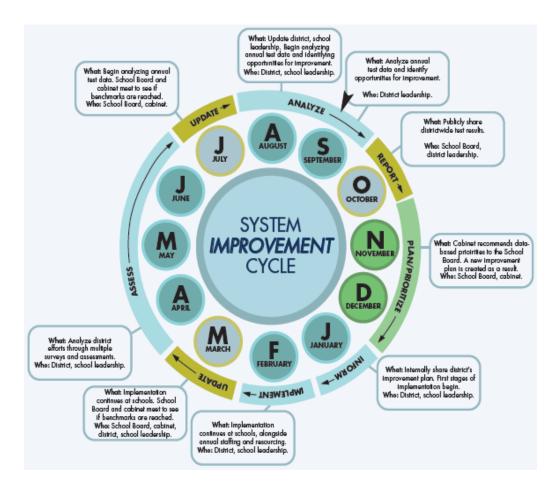
Anoka-Hennepin employs a continuous improvement model for change, collecting and monitoring multiple sources of data to determine areas of success and areas on which to focus. Student achievement, behavioral, perception and enrollment data are disaggregated by school, grade-level, ethnicity, gender, special populations (students receiving special education, free/reduced-priced services, and/or language-acquisition services), and program participation (i.e.: magnet/specialty programs, intervention programming, advanced learner programming), in addition to by classroom and even individual student. These disaggregated data are included in district-created reports, as well as in software tools such as our data warehouse.

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		e g	A2.8: Participatio credit earning cou gap among F/R ar for seniors (PSEO,	irses: nd eth	greatest pe inic student	rcentage groups	Percent difference betw lowest participating stud		and	>25%	21-25%	16-20%	10-15%	< 10%	20.2%	<u>19.6%</u>	20.8%	18.9%	25.9%	Ŷ		

Anoka-Hennepin School District

Equity Achievement Plan

District and school staff regularly examine and analyze these data formally at scheduled times throughout the year and when questions arise through daily activities as part of on-going school improvement processes and work within collaborative teams. Data are also analyzed across years, grade levels and sources to identify patterns and trends to inform decisions and guide action steps. In addition, data are used to create predictive models of performance on future assessments to target students potentially at risk for not meeting defined benchmarks and proficiency levels as well as those performing above expectation. Student growth trends are also analyzed to ensure all students are challenged appropriately.



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These data are also used as indicators of systems effectiveness and on-track performance toward supporting all students in meeting grade-level proficiency, outlined in the Minnesota Academic Standards, and reaching our state accountability goals in math and reading as measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). The district/school leadership teams annually set these goals in August, write action plans to meet these goals including strategies targeting areas of focus, evidence of effectiveness, timelines for implementation and persons responsible for implementation throughout the year.



Following are the current district-wide goals in math, reading, and college and career readiness. Goals are evaluated and revised annually.

A. Math Proficiency and Achievement Gap Goals

By the end of the 2021-22 school year, 49.4% of all students will score at or above grade-level proficiency on the All Accountability MCA Math Assessments, an increase of 0.6% from the proficiency of the 2020-21 cohort of students. (The 2020-21 cohort of students scored a 48.8% proficiency rate.)

By the end of the 2021-22 school year, the achievement gap between students of color (SOC) and white students as measured by the All Accountability MCA Math Assessments proficiency will decrease from 25.6% to 24.3%, a decrease of 1.3% from the 2020-21 achievement gap.

B. Reading Proficiency and Achievement Gap Goals

By the end of the 2021-22 school year, 57.6% of all students will score at or above grade-level proficiency on the All Accountability MCA Reading Assessments, an increase of 2.1% from the proficiency of the 2020-21 cohort of students. (The 2020-21 cohort of students scored a 55.5% proficiency rate.)

By the end of the 2021-22 school year, the achievement gap between students of color (SOC) and white students as measured by the All Accountability MCA Reading Assessments proficiency will decrease from 18.2% to 17.3%, a decrease of 0.9% from the 2020-21 achievement gap.

C. College and Career Readiness Goals

By the end of the 2021-22 school year, 87.1% of all students completing their senior year will have taken at least one potential college credit earning course by graduation, an increase of 0.7% from the potential college credit earning course enrollment rate of the 2020-21 cohort of students. (The 2020-21 cohort of students had an 86.4% potential college credit earning course enrollment rate.)

By the end of the 2021 school year, 86.9% of all students in their fourth year of high school will graduate, an increase of 0.7% from the rate of the 2020 cohort of students. (The 2020 cohort of students graduated at a rate of 86.2%.) This includes all students, including students in traditional, alternative and special programming across the district.

IV. Data Informed Decision Making

Anoka-Hennepin joined other school districts across the Twin Cities metropolitan area in exploring educational equity and excellence for all. The following year, the district engaged in an in-depth analysis of the local context driving student opportunity and outcomes.

A. Reimagine Minnesota

The goal of Reimagine Minnesota is to eliminate disparities and to improve access, equity and opportunity for ALL students.

In the Spring of 2017, parents, students, cultural representatives, community members, business leaders and other education stakeholders participated in a community conversation about educational equity. Participants were asked to Reimagine Minnesota and conceptualize a new model of education that's designed for the success of all students. Input from Anoka-Hennepin stakeholders was combined with that of communities all across the metropolitan area. In total 12 World Café convenings of more than 3,000 participant voices and a student conference of more than 300 high school students resulted in three overarching recommendations:

- 1. Effective, diverse stakeholders who use trusting relationships to create welcoming classrooms, schools and communities that meet the needs (hopes & dreams) of all students and families.
- 2. Personalized relevant education and youth development that guarantees access to rigorous learning and eliminating predictability based on race.
- 3. Equitable resources (time, talent, funds) aligned to student needs (hopes & dreams) that enable every district to "see all" and "serve all."

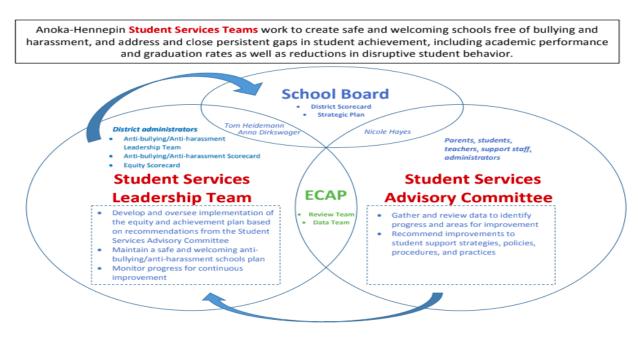
Reimagine Minnesota is a comprehensive education plan developed collectively by a group of more than 30 school superintendents from the metropolitan area. The Association of Metropolitan School Districts has facilitated the initiative and is hosting periodic professional development sessions focused on the strategies in the Reimagine Minnesota plan. Their strategies are aligned to the Anoka-Hennepin Equity Achievement Plan.

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B. Equity Context Analysis Process

In order to gather local information to inform equity-focused strategic planning efforts, Anoka-Hennepin School District partnered with the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center) and engaged in a district-wide analysis of our system via the Equity Context Analysis Process (ECAP). The ECAP involved several data collection activities, including: student outcomes data summary, school site visits, stakeholder questionnaires, and an equity review rubric.

The ECAP provided an in-depth study of the Anoka-Hennepin school district. It enabled collaborative, cross-stakeholder dialogue, analysis, and meaning-making of systemic variables and systemic conditions toward equity. The data collection process looked at themes occurring throughout the district and identified areas of strength and opportunities for change. The ECAP data collection phase was completed April through September 2018. The MAP Center worked with the Student Services Advisory Committee, a district cross-stakeholder team, to co-interpret the data, identify themes, and build capacity for driving educational equity.



Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center will guide the district through an Equity Context Analysis Process (ECAP). ECAP is a comprehensive data collection and analysis process used to identify opportunities for growth related to advancing educational equity and support strategic planning efforts.

C. Anoka-Hennepin Student Services Team Structures

The Student Services Advisory Committee (SSAC), Student Services Leadership Team (SSLT), school and district administrators, and the District-Wide Equity Achievement Team identified barriers to achieving equitable outcomes for all students and assets in our district and community that could be drawn upon to reach our goals. This informed the alignment of eight Reimagine Minnesota strategies to the three priority equity domains outlined below. Finally, indicators of progress, action steps and projected timelines were identified for each strategy as follows. Annually, we share status updates to the plan and our efforts. In addition to these two committees, there is frequent feedback and interaction for input from the following departments: Curriculum, Special Education, Q-Comp, Employee Services, Research Evaluation & Testing, Operations, Community Education, Communications, etc.

D. Priority Equity Domains

Through the Equity Context Analysis Process, three equity domains were identified as priorities for strategic equity initiatives.

#1 Climate

All members of the learning community experience safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments, where there is a recognition and valuing of students' differences and the creation of spaces for families and students to participate in decisions that affect their learning trajectories.

#2 Student Engagement

All students are active participants in their own learning and are engaged in high quality and rigorous learning opportunities. Students' academic, social, and personal growth all are deemed important outcomes.

#3 Instruction and Assessment

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices support all students in identifying and using tools and knowledge resources from multiple communities to empower students to be critical thinkers and contribute positively to our communities in and out of school. Instruction is differentiated to facilitate use of various modalities for acquisition and generation of knowledge or skills through experience and study.

Equity Achievement Plan (Updated as of November 2021)

Strate	gy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
1.	Increase effective adult behaviors and decrease ineffective adult behaviors and ensure policies do not lead to disproportionality; provide growth-oriented student, staff and family support.	Increased levels of agreement related to positive culture and climate	Culture and Climate Survey	2% increase from 81.9% to 83.9% overall agreement
Actior	1 Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Each school/program has an Equity Achievement Team to implement district equity plans aligned to building priorities. At minimum, team members include principal, teacher, and student support staff.	2019-ongoing	School Principal Program Directors	Team roster Meeting agenda Co-facilitate presentations
b.	District Equity Support Team provides staff development for school staff in collaboration with building Equity Team.	2019-ongoing	Director of Student Services	Staff development provided for all employees working directly with students
с.	Research, adopt, and implement tools to review policies and practices for educational equity.	2022	Director of Student Services	Examples: Policy review rubric Use Reflection tool
d.	To ensure safe and welcoming schools, clearly define expected and unacceptable student behavior as a means to reduce discipline disparities. Recommend changes to the School Board for the District Student Discipline Policy.	2019-ongoing	Principal of Compass Programs	Behavior rubric and behavior targets

A. Priority Domain #1: Climate

e.	School Board reviews recommendations and updates policy as approved by Board process.	2019-ongoing	School Board Chair	Updated policy
f.	Develop and implement Student Code of Conduct Communication and Training Plan for students, families, and staff. Provide resources for educators to facilitate respectful learning environments.	2019-ongoing	Principal of Compass Programs and School Principal	Student Code of Conduct Communication and Training Plan
g.	Equity Support Team conducts school ECAP to drive school-wide equity activities embedded within school improvement plan. Site-based ECAP guided by Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center.	2019-2020	School Principal Program Directors	School Improvement Plan
h.	Implement a cycle for equity review of district policies and recommend changes to the School Board, as appropriate.	2021-ongoing	Superintendent	Review cycle and policy recommendations

Climate continued

Strate	gy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
2.	Recruit and retain staff of color.	Staff of color are retained	Percent of Employees of Color	Increase teachers of color from 4% to 5%
Action	1 Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Provide education career exploration program for high school students (e.g. Educators Rising).	2019-ongoing	Assistant Director of Student Services	Student participation
b.	Expand educator development program opportunities for high school students (e.g. Future Leaders).	2019-ongoing	Equity and Inclusion Coordinator	Student participation
с.	Develop relationships with teacher preparation institutions focused on diversifying the teacher candidate pool.	2019-ongoing	Director of Employee Services	Prioritize list of universities

d.	Provide career advancement opportunities for non-licensed employees (e.g. Grow Your Own Program).	2019-ongoing	Director of Employee Services	Employee participation
e.	Research mentoring programs for new teachers of color and explore options for implementation.	2019-ongoing	Director of Employee Services	Teacher Mentorship Program Plan
f.	Develop and implement effective staff employee resource groups intended to support and retain staff of color. In addition, we will find ways to support and collaborate with the Anoka-Hennepin Teachers of Color Coalition that has already laid tremendous groundwork.	2019-ongoing	Director of Employee Services	Employee Resource group calendar and year-end recommendations from each group
g.	Research and identify barriers to retention of staff of color and create Retention Plan.	2021-ongoing	Director of Employee Services	Employee Retention Plan

Climate continued

Strateg	39	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
3.	Build bridges between school and community.	Increased ratings of good and excellent quality education	Community Survey	Maintain 85% or greater of community rating quality education as good or excellent (87%, 2021)
Action	Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Coordinate and support parent affinity groups (e.g. Parents of Students of Color, Best Legacy, Indian Ed Parent Committee).	2019-ongoing	Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator Coordinator Indian Education Parent Involvement Coordinator	Parent group meeting schedule and end of year summary from each group

b. Provide opportunities for service within schools (e.g buddies, big brother).		2023 (Potential revision)	Volunteer Services Coordinators and Principals	List of volunteer opportunities
c. Invite community organiz partner with schools to su and social growth of stude YMCA, Faith Communit	pport academic ents (e.g.	2023 (Potential revision)	Principals Director of Student Services	Volunteer Services Report

Climate continued

Strate	gy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
4.	Create and sustain consistent shared understanding of equity and high level of skill application for leaders at all levels.	District leaders participate in the IDI	IDI District profile	90% or greater participation
Action	n Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Complete Intercultural Development Inventory and Intercultural Development Plan coaching for School Board Members and district leaders.	2019-2022	Superintendent	Group coaching session
b.	Provide professional development opportunities for school administrators and teacher leaders .	2019-ongoing	Director of Student Services	Principal report to staff about new understandings
c.	Research, review, and identify equity consultant(s) for leading and implementing culturally responsive teaching practices.	2019-ongoing	Director of Student Services	Board approved recommendations
d.	Develop professional development plan (scope and sequence) for school administrators and teacher leaders.	2019-ongoing	Associate Superintendents	Professional development plan
e.	Integrate equity lens throughout district provided professional development (e.g. SEL adoption).	2019-ongoing	Curriculum Directors	Professional development plan

Strateş	gy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
5.	Elevate student voice and leadership and improve/ensure inclusiveness in the school culture and environment.	Overall student engagement	Student Engagement Survey	Maintain at least 85% overall student engagement and less than 3% gap between student groups in overall student engagement; 88.5% overall engagement with a 4.3% gap (2021)
Action	n Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Create regular, encouraging, and safe places for students to share feedback, especially opposing opinions (e.g. suggestion box, electronic forum, meetings, advisory discussions).	2019-ongoing	Principal	Input informs School Improvement Plans
Ь.	Hold student integrated forums in each secondary school (students self-select) to analyze school safety, relationships, teaching and learning and make recommendations for improvement. We intend to create space for students to opt-in based on their interests.	2019-ongoing	Principal Student Achievement Advisor	Input informs School Improvement Plans Identify frequency
c.	Communicate about student suggestions and actions to promote safe and welcoming schools.	2019-ongoing	Principal	Student and parent communications
d.	Create multiple opportunities inclusive of all secondary students to participate in influencing school culture (e.g. surveys, meetings, forums, student listening sessions, etc.).	2019-ongoing	Principal (Superintendent, Associates, Student Services)	Input informs School Improvement Plans

B. Priority Domain #2: Student Engagement and Outcomes

Student Engagement and Outcomes continued

Strate	egy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
6.	Prioritize and ensure personalized education with emphasis on acceleration vs. intervention.	% of students in grades 9 through 12 with a plan	Personalized Learning Plan	Establish baseline
Actio	n Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Create a common definition and vision for personalized learning.	2023 (Potential revision)	Executive Director of Technology	Personalized Learning Committee Report
b.	Provide opportunities for student directed learning activities across all levels for all students.	2023 (Potential revision)	Curriculum Directors and Principals	Academic program and course syllabi
c.	Implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) district-wide through adult growth. -Literacy Coach; Math Coach -Differentiation Specialist	2019-ongoing	Associate Superintendents	MTSS action plan
d.	Ensure every student has a personalized learning plan (PLP) established and monitored (i.e. elementary introduction, middle school exploration, high school implementation). High school implementation is currently in place.	2023 (Potential revision regarding expansion)	Associate Superintendents	Student PLP

Strate	gy	Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
7.	Develop and implement culturally inclusive curriculum and assessment systems*	Development and implementation plan	Documented timeline and action steps	Action steps are completed
Action	n Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
a.	Provide training for teaching and learning specialists to identify tools to review curriculum for highly effective approaches.	2019-ongoing	Curriculum Directors	Curriculum review rubric
b.	Engage parents and students from historically marginalized groups in reviewing curriculum materials for bias and cultural responsiveness.	2019-ongoing	Curriculum Directors	Recommendations to CIAC
c.	Provide course offerings designed to explore the perspectives of underrepresented groups in every high school.	2019-ongoing	Director of Secondary Curriculum	Course catalog
d.	Enhance current course offerings and curriculum to reflect perspectives of underrepresented groups.	2019-ongoing	Curriculum Directors	Board approved course modifications or adoptions

C. Priority Domain #3: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Strategy		Indicator of Progress	Measure	Target
8. Provide professional development for all staff who work directly with students.		% of staff participation	Attendance	90% of active teachers complete
Action S	Steps	Timeline	Leader Responsible	Deliverable
s F	District Equity Support Team supports school Equity Achievement Teams and provides peer-led professional development for all staff who work with students.	2019-ongoing	Director of Student Services	Professional development provided
t	Build deeper cultural responsiveness of staff hrough optional Appreciation of Diversity Speaker Series available for all employees.	2019-ongoing	Director of Student Services	Sessions provided after school three times per year
	Qcomp peer evaluation includes cultural proficiency indicators.	2019-ongoing	Qcomp Administrator	Look for document
	Performance Appraisal System teacher rubrics nclude cultural proficiency indicators.	2021-2022	Director of Employee Services	PAS rubric

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment continued

* Any curriculum changes/updates will be processed through Anoka-Hennepin curriculum change/adopt/update process