



Contact

Chris Williams, Education Minnesota
Chris.williams@edmn.org, 651-247-5539

Greg Abbott, Minnesota School Boards Association
gabbott@mnmsba.org, 507-420-1881

Public school leaders pledge to support and expand education equity programs intended to make schools more safe, welcoming and effective for all students

ST. PAUL, Minn. Sept. 13, 2021 – The leaders of some of the most prominent groups in public education, representing school boards, superintendents, administrators, school business officials, principals, special education administrators, teachers and other educators from across the state, have issued a joint statement in support of increasing education equity, including in race and gender.

Nearly all Minnesotans agree every student deserves an education that encourages them to understand and value who they are and where they came from so they can reach their full potential, no matter their skin color, background, gender, or ZIP code.

Too often, we have fallen short of this goal, especially for our students of color, LGBTQ+ students, students living in poverty, and students with special physical or emotional needs. We are committed to reversing this trend with programs and policies that meet students where they are – academically, emotionally, and physically – and lift them up so every student has an excellent chance at academic success. For us, this is the definition of education equity.

We have seen progress but have no doubts that more needs to be done to make our schools safe, welcoming and effective for all students. If nothing else, demography demands we quicken our pace. More than a third of our students statewide are students of color and our state becomes more racially and culturally diverse every year.

Unfortunately, many communities throughout Minnesota are feeling the effects of a well-organized national campaign pushing an agenda that misrepresents the vital work of racial and gender equity in our schools and then mislabels it as “critical race theory.” This deceptive campaign pushes the idea that educational equity is a zero-sum proposition – that it is necessary for some students to lose opportunities to help other students succeed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Educational equity is giving all students a world-class education.

To be clear: Every student – white, Black, brown, or Indigenous – benefits from learning a deeper respect and understanding for their neighbors through an honest education in social studies, language arts, and all the other subjects taught in our schools.

As representatives of classroom educators, administrators, and school boards throughout Minnesota, we value students for who they are today and our organizations are committed to developing all of them into informed citizens, good neighbors and critical thinkers who can live in, and someday lead in, a multicultural, multiracial Minnesota. Our kids deserve nothing less.”

