

First Draft of Shared Vision Statement for SOELS Educational Equity Committee

April 22, 2021

The Southern Oregon Early Learning Services Hub (SOELS) believes equity means that all people have the right to quality education, safety, well-being, good health, and health care - regardless of age, gender, education, race, ethnicity, language, income, ability level, or geographic barriers.

The SOELS Early Learning Educational Equity Committee focuses on identifying and addressing racial and ethnic educational disparities experienced by our region's BIPOC children and their families.

SOELS Early Learning Educational Equity Committee has a shared vision that...

ALL children and families feel welcome and respected when they engage with health care centers, early learning centers, school districts, and other family-serving social and human service agencies, regardless of race, ethnicity, ability level, gender identity, family income, or immigration status. Families will see information provided in their home language and will see people who look like them and speak their language represented in the services they receive. These families will know that their voices are included in the planning of services and that they have the opportunity to provide feedback that is applied to programming. These children and families will see that their differences are acknowledged and appreciated and that they do not have to change or adapt to the dominant culture to be truly included and valued as equal members of the community.

We believe that when this happens, we will see that the disproportionality of children of color who are represented in foster care, who experience suspensions or expulsions, who are in the juvenile justice system, and who are enrolled in special education will decrease. We will see more children of color achieving third grade reading and math and eighth grade English language arts and math benchmarks, placed in Advanced Placement classes and TAG programs, graduating from high school on time, and receiving acknowledgement for hard work and earned achievements. We will see more families of color receiving preventive and early intervention services such as Head Start, Preschool Promise, home visiting, well child visits, EI/ECSE, etc. to meet the needs of their families early and to keep them engaged for optimal outcomes.

We believe that when this happens, families of color will begin to advocate for the needs of their children and their families and to seek influential positions in the community. We will see more diverse representation in civic activities, agency boards, and community groups. Families will not feel the conditional belonging with conditional access that comes from living WITHIN a community; they will feel the unconditional belonging and unconditional access that comes from being OF a community.