

Public Comment & Question Response Document--August 13, 2020 Full Body Consortium Meeting

Questions:

Is the Social Determinants Work Group coordinating with the Wilmington City Council about culturally relevant curriculum?

Does DOE have a definition of systemic racism? And do they have courses of action to address it? Have there been equity studies done?

In light of the pandemic, how are districts assisting parents with unbudgeted expenses they are facing associated with remote and or partial in school learning?

How will DOE hold districts accountable for whether or not they are meeting the needs of the students at high-poverty schools during the pandemic?

The Office of Innovation has been working with our schools in the City of Wilmington and other LEA's in the State. How did the results of this ongoing work/partnership drive the work and priorities ahead for the Office? What was successful? What was unsuccessful? What are some of the barriers that need to be addressed moving forward?

What is the status of proposed regulation 508?

Answers:

From Social Determinants Co-Chair Raye Jones Avery: This idea hasn't been explored or discussed yet, but the Co-chairs are interested, stay tuned

From The Delaware Department of Education (DOE): This is a judicial and legislative question regarding an organic and ever changing challenge to the ideal of equality. Some Delaware citizens may define systematic racism as a set of related laws, regulations, policies, practices, and norms that establish, perpetuate, or exacerbate disadvantages to a group of people based on their race and/or ethnicity.

As for recommended courses of action, eradicating systemic racism requires commitment and cooperation at both the state and local level of parents, educators, administrators, legislators and concerned citizens. It is why the Department strives to work with local school districts and charter schools as they implement progressive ideas and support them in areas where a broader, state-wide approach is beneficial.

From DOE: Districts are diligently working to provide devices to students. The Governor's Office and the Department of Education have been collaborating with the Department of Technology Information (DTI) to enhance internet access throughout the state and to address internet affordability issues.

From DOE: DOE is working diligently to meet and adapt to the needs of students and families. Goal-setting and subsequent evaluative conferences for teachers, staff members, and administrators will be conducted in districts. Although DOE is responsible for reviewing ESSA-related goals for each district with its superintendent, individual Boards of Education and district administrators will be mainly responsible for determining if the needs of students in district schools are being met.

Response Pending

From the State Board of Education: The Stateboard is tentatively scheduled to hear Regulation 508, along with Regulation 922 and 925 (they need to go together) at their October or November meeting. The regulation will likely move forward with an effective date of June 30, 2021.