

## **Update on the Identity-Based Data Collection Project for PIC**

The OCDSB has a strong commitment to improving equity of access and opportunity for all students. We recognize the important role that equity and inclusion play in improving student achievement and well-being, reducing achievement gaps, and increasing public confidence in our education system.

In 2017, the Province enacted the Anti-Racism Act and provided a framework for school boards in Ontario to collect identity-based data. The act specifically identified four groups that are adversely impacted by racism including Indigenous, Black, Jewish communities, and communities that are adversely impacted by Islamophobia.

On February 4, 2019, *Report 19-019: Identity-Based Data Collection* was presented to Committee of the Whole. This report described some of the work to be undertaken by the District to begin to identify system barriers and bias that could be contributing to poor outcomes for these groups of students. The District has also identified a need to include LGBTQ2S+, New Comers, Poverty, and Accessibility groups to align with current strategic direction. The Ministry of Education approved \$103,000 to support this work. Timelines have since been extended by the Ministry to allow the project to continue through to the end of November 2019.

The District's project plan includes three key phases – the first two to be completed before the end of this school year, data collection to take place in November 2019:

- community partner meetings to help strategize recruitment and participation from parents and students for the focus groups and for the actual data collection scheduled to take place this fall;
- focus groups interviews with parents of (Year 1 Kindergarten-Grade 6) and Grade 7 -12 students to learn about the lived experiences of the students in our District that have posed challenges to their learning and well-being, as well as identifying strategies that helped them to succeed. Information will be used to complement data collection and to help identify priorities for data analysis and reporting following the collection; and,
- system-wide voluntary collection of identity-based data in November 2019 (parents of children in Year 1 Kindergarten through Grade 6) and students in Grades 7-12.

To support this work, the District has reached out to community agencies to support us in this work.

Questions about this project should be directed to Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer Corporate Services at 613-596-8211 ext 8310.