

Mason Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Professional Development August 23 and 24, 2021

At the kickoff events for the 2021-22 school year, Mason Public Schools staff took part in two days of professional development focused on “Education Equity: Creating Conditions for Teaching and Learning for Independent Learners.”

On Monday's opening day, Superintendent Ronald Drzewicki and District Consultant Dr. Karlin Tichenor led things off with a keynote address on the District's continued efforts with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The keynote was followed by PD sessions on equity-related topics led by experienced specialists. Each staff member attended two of the sessions:

- Pedagogy and Learning: Using Empathy to Engage Students
- Designing Instruction to Prepare Students for a Diverse World
- Where Do We Go From Here? Using Restorative Principles to Create Healing with a Throughline of Equity
- Implicit Bias and Blindspots
- Working with Diverse Students

The day concluded with building-level debriefs on the day's topics and sessions focused on these seven guiding questions:

1. What are the overall key learnings with implications on our grade level or subject area or division/role?
2. How might we integrate these ideas into practice?
3. What are our next steps?
4. How will we measure it?
5. How might we hold our team accountable?
6. What might we need more of?
7. What might we need less of?

Tuesday's day of learning was filled with choice professional development. Mason staff had the opportunity to attend six sessions over the course of the day with numerous in-person and virtual opportunities. Many of the choice PD sessions had a focus on “Equity for All.”