

Established in 2020, CVUSD Equity Task Force (ETF) is a diverse group of dedicated parents, educators and students committed to ensuring that EVERY child in our district has the opportunity to excel and thrive. This outcome is made real through equity. Equity is achieved when group identity no longer predicts the course of a person's life and every child has what they need to succeed. We believe that your children deserve to learn in an environment where they feel safe and valued and have access to resources to promote their academic and social-emotional success.

The ETF knows we are a better and stronger school district when our kids are the center of our focus and when our community stands behind that focus. In striving to put forth our best we must acknowledge our strengths as well as identify and address our challenges. We work with the intention of gathering diverse perspectives with an awareness that one's identity shapes both experience and understanding of that experience. Moreover, we aim to acknowledge that just because one hasn't experienced something it doesn't mean it does not exist.

CVUSD serves students that reflect a diverse cross-section of identities. Similar to our nation, there are identity groups in our district that experience marginalization and inequity both historically as well as currently. The reasons for these disparities are complex and stem from the legacy of social, legal and institutional structures. Marginalization is also perpetuated through individual acts of bias and social norms that dismiss the existence of behaviors that hold certain identity groups down while elevating others.

ETF works to dispel the myth that by recognizing and working to right these disparities will only create division. Rather, we know that by mending these gaps in equity and acknowledging our shortcomings as a district, we are broadening the opportunities for success for EVERY child. In a nation of diverse identities our children's success is dependent on their ability to navigate different perspectives and effectively synergize. Their success is also dependent on having access to an environment that demonstrates the importance of equity and a climate of safety where EVERY child knows they are valued.

We must organize as a community to achieve a better and stronger school district where EVERY child is at the center of our focus. The ETF welcomes your ideas to strengthen our district and appreciates your ability to understand that there are perspectives out there that may not match your experience; however, the experiences of others are real and directly impact the children that we serve. We can and will be better. Our children deserve it.

## **STATEMENT BRIEF**

The CVUSD Equity Task Force (ETF) is a diverse group of dedicated parents, educators and students committed to ensuring that EVERY child in our district has the opportunity to excel and thrive. This outcome is made real through equity. Equity is achieved when group identity no longer predicts the course of a person's life and every child has what they need to succeed.

Like our nation, CVUSD serves a group of students that reflect a diverse cross-section of identities—including those that have experienced both historic marginalization and ongoing discrimination. The ETF works to overcome the disparities that result by mending gaps in equity in order to broaden opportunities for EVERY child.

The ETF knows we are a better and stronger school district when our kids are the center of our focus and when our community stands behind that focus. We believe that our objectives echo the sentiments of every parent in our district – that your children deserve to learn in an environment where they feel safe and valued and have access to resources to promote their social, emotional and academic success.

Help us to create a more supportive and inclusive learning environment at CVUSD. We welcome your ideas.