

NEWSLETTER

Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.

Welcome to our **fiftieth** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

This week, we are highlighting the truth and history behind Thanksgiving. Given the questionable historical origins of the holiday, it is critical that we celebrate it respectfully and accurately to ensure that we uplift everybody while enjoying time with family. Please check out this week's series on Thanksgiving on our Instagram [here](#).

The beloved community club, hosted by FEC once a month, conducted its first meeting on November 17th. Members discussed their progress in reading "This Book Is Anti-Racist" by Tiffany Jewell, as well as participating in activities to discuss the message of the book and to facilitate the growth of the book club members. The club is always open for new membership for all middle school-aged students. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining, please contact mmchugh@fairfieldschools.org. The book club is planning on starting another book soon, so now is a great time to join.

On November 30th, the Board of Education will hear the final proposal for a new, one-year, one-credit Black and Latino studies course in the High School. The course would be only a history course at first but would expand, if successful, to include an English component as well. It would satisfy the Fairfield Public Schools United States History requirement, and would also be offered as an early college experience course. FEC has been working behind the scenes to assist with the creation of this course and would love to see supporters at the meeting.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- December 2nd, 6:00 PM via Zoom: The Town Of Fairfield is hosting its weekly Racial Equity and Justice Task Force meeting, in which they will discuss how to challenge racist policies and practices within our town. It will be open to the public for comment and observation. More info [here](#).
- December 2nd, 11:00 AM - 2 PM via Zoom: UCI is hosting "Queer and Present Danger" a webinar meant to help understand the impact of disasters on LGBTQIA+ communities. The event includes a panel of experts and members of the community. Register [here](#).

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

The Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Food Pantries is an interfaith community of volunteers dedicated to providing food and fellowship to all who need it in their community. They also have a goal of educating the general public on the devastating effects of hunger and poverty on all of us. There are so many ways to help this organization, including giving your time, giving food or monetary contribution, and spreading the word about their mission. Find out more at [their website](#).

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading about new research from Fairfield Public Schools that exposes a growing achievement gap in the student body. According to a new report that combined information including test scores, attendance, and suspension rates, administrators found that Black and Hispanic students are more likely to be suspended and are 30-40% less likely to achieve test scores in line with state standards as compared to their white and Asian counterparts in Fairfield Public Schools. It is believed that a large part of this gap can be attributed to a feeling of marginalization or isolation of these students in schools across the district, gaps in attendance, and a lack of resources for these students. Although this so-called "achievement gap" has existed in FPS for a very long time, the Pandemic has only served to greatly exacerbate the already dramatic gaps. It is absolutely critical that Fairfield continues to invest in infrastructure to uplift Black and Latinx students and continues to challenge structural racism within our school system. The work the town has to put towards promoting equity is far from over, evidenced by reports such as this one.

GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please [fill out this survey](#). If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfeldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

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Fairfield Equity Coalition



fairfeldequitycoalition.org



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