

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 **eleventh** newsletter! This edition describes the additional steps we're taking before publishing of our report. As always, please reach out if you have suggested items for our future newsletters. We appreciate your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

We hope last week's school reopening went as smoothly as possible for all of FPS's teachers, staff, students, and families. We are happy to announce that our report on working towards racial equity is nearly finished. We will be sending out a new survey shortly to gain more student perspectives to personalize our ten Actionable Changes. It is crucial to ground our research and activism in the stories shared directly from FPS's student body.

This week, FEC will engage in discussions with local leaders and the BOE around reviewing the contents of the report at a public hearing in October. Additionally, our committees will be preparing for the report's release by coordinating with other advocacy organizations and media outlets to ensure residents across Fairfield and the state can follow our fight towards racial equity.

We will continue to update you all closely in the coming weeks. We are so excited to release this report and begin these important discussions!

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WHERE WE ARE NOW &
WHERE WE ARE GOING**

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS
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ACTION ITEMS

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- **Monday, September 14, 7 PM:** "Civil Rights and Liberties in CT" online event hosted by the Humanists and Freethinkers of Fairfield County. Learn from ACLU-CT's Executive Director, David McGuire, about the fight for criminal justice reform in Connecticut. Details and registration here.
- **Tuesday, September 15, 6-7:30 PM:** "Conversations around Race: Re-imagining Arts & Culture" virtual event hosted by the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County. Learn about how racism has shaped our understanding of human culture and the ways in which it can be dismantled. Details and registration here.

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

Predominately-white towns like Fairfield have the privileged ability to avoid discussions around racism and racial identity. However, as our report describes, anti-racism education must begin at a young age to prevent harmful racial biases from solidifying in a young student's mind. The youngest grades in elementary school must incorporate these lessons and principles in their curriculum and extracurricular opportunities. Racial justice and education cannot be limited to our town alone -- sign this petition to make our neighbor Westport, another predominately-white town, begin education on racism in its elementary schools.

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Watching the TEDTalk "The urgency of intersectionality" by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a leading civil rights advocate and critical race theory scholar. Ms. Crenshaw developed the theory of intersectionality over three decades ago to describe the ways in which a person's identities (race, gender, religion, etc.) interact to create distinct forms of discrimination and privilege. Intersectionality is an essential concept to promoting racial equity in FPS and FEC utilizes this concept in our upcoming report.

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



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