

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 **twenty-second** newsletter! This is a newsletter for the community, by the community, so please reach out with suggested items. Thank you for keeping up with our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

This week, our Data Committee is continuing to analyze the many responses we received from our second Teacher and Staff Survey on Anti-Racism and Racial Equity in Fairfield Public Schools. We are encouraged to see many responses that suggest a strong desire for reforms to the ways in which race is taught and how racist incidents are handled in the school district. Select data from this survey will appear in the form of direct, anonymous quotations from respondents, organized by the relevant Actionable Change, as well as summary statistics referenced throughout our report on promoting anti-racism and racial equity in FPS. For the sake of transparency, the survey responses will be published in full (excluding responses from respondents who did not consent for their perspective to be published) on our website for anyone to view.

Additionally, our Publicity and Countywide Collaboration committees are networking with local media organizations to promote the eventual release and initial presentation of our report on December 8th. We hope the entire Fairfield community, and people from across Connecticut, can contribute to this complex conversation!

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- Thursday, December 3rd, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM via Facebook Live: "Communities Advancing Racial Equity Series" free online forum hosted by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Join in the community conversation about the specifics behind advancing racial equity in Connecticut. Details here.
- Friday, December 4th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: "City Partnerships for Centering Equity in Clean Energy Policy and Implementation" online discussion hosted by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Learn from our neighbor Providence, RI, how to prioritize social equity in clean energy policymaking. Registration required. Details here.

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

December is a month marked by lots of different gift-giving occasions. As we enter the holiday season, we must remember that many families in Connecticut are struggling to stay afloat, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating many existing financial struggles. Hamden CERT is running a holiday food and toy drive at Hamden Middle School (2623 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518) on the next two Saturdays (12/5 & 12/12). If you are able and willing, please consider donating to this important cause. Help ensure children and families in need can celebrate in comfort this holiday season!

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading "What it means to be anti-racist" by Anna North for Vox. As we mention above, we were happy to read so many positive, inquisitive responses to our second Teacher and Staff Survey on Anti-Racism and Racial Equity. That being said, it became clear that a minority of responses either expressed apprehension or blatant misconceptions concerning the principles of anti-racism. Several respondents were unclear as to what this concept truly means and its many implications. As we prepare to engage in these conversations in detail, we encourage you all to refer to this brief explainer that outlines what anti-racism is, and importantly, what it is *not*.

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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