

# 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 **thirty-fourth** 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

*Content warning: Anti-Asian Violence.* In the last two weeks, FEC has shared several different posts on our Instagram regarding the recent surge in Anti-Asian violence and the tragic mass shooting in Atlanta. Check out [our page](#) for resources: a historical perspective on the recent tragedies, ways to support the victims and their families, and materials to help unlearn our unconscious biases.

This week, we will also be highlighting AAPI women's contributions to our society to help counter harmful and racist narratives that preempt these types of attacks. To be clear, the AAPI community is centuries old in our nation and, like any other group, they do not have to *prove* their worth and rightful place in this country. We hope this series nevertheless honors the contributions and humanity of the AAPI community that is so often overlooked by our larger society.

The process of "learning to unlearn" our biases and preconceptions must be a constant effort. The fact that these incidents of Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander violence [continue to happen](#) is evidence enough that we all need to make this work a personal priority.

Finally, we want you all to save the date for an upcoming event in May: On Friday, May 7th, there will be a virtual conference entitled "Dismantling Systemic Racism: Race, Education, and Success" hosted by local organizations. More details to come, which will be shared through our newsletter.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**COALITION UPDATE:  
WHERE WE ARE NOW &  
WHERE WE ARE GOING**

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS  
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**THIS WEEK WE'RE...**

## Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- **Thursday, April 8th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM:** "Minority Business Network" online event hosted by the Minority Business Network Committee of the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. Learn about ways to promote BIPOC-owned businesses and the unique obstacles they face. Non-members of chamber may attend upon request. Details here.
- **Monday, April 12th, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM via Facebook Live:** "Preschool Storytimes" free virtual event hosted by the Meriden Public Library. Have your preschooler read along with Ms. Cathy using engaging active reading strategies. Details here.

### ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

One of the biggest debates related to educational equity today is the fight to cancel a certain amount of student debt in this country. Over 44 million Americans carry a total of more than \$1.7 trillion of student debt. People with significant student debt are prevented in many cases from buying a home, saving for retirement, and even starting families. Cancelling student debt is fundamentally an equity issue. Black families - as a result of less generational wealth from structural racism - are more likely to take on student loans and struggle to pay it off due to job discrimination and pay disparities. Cancelling student debt would have significant positive impacts on the economy and would help close the racial wealth gap. Sign the ACLU's petition urging the Biden Administration to cancel up to \$50k of student debt per borrower by the end of this year. (*Note: information above from ACLU.*)

### THIS WEEK WE'RE...

*Reading* "Debt to Society: The Case for Bold, Equitable Student Loan Cancellation and Reform" by Mark Huelsman for Demos. This report explores the inequity problem of student debt as described above in greater detail. Huelsman describes how this crippling debt can inhibit all facets of an individual's life. This paper proposes several different evidenced-based proposals for substantial and targeted student debt relief that compliment the proposal by the ACLU. We hope this report contextualizes the debate and provides several different routes to relieving this burden to a wide scope of people.

### 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 [fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com) to get involved.

## FOLLOW US!



Fairfield Equity Coalition



<https://fairfieldequitycoa.wixsite.com/fecoalition>



@fairfieldequitycoalition