

## **CAS EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COMMITTEE PURPOSE STATEMENT**

THE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COMMITTEE AT THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS SHARES AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO REFLECTING, ACKNOWLEDGING, AND ADJUSTING BELIEFS AND ACTIONS AROUND EQUITY THROUGH THE LENS OF RACE, CULTURE, AND IDENTITY. WE BELIEVE THAT EACH STUDENT'S STRENGTHS, DIVERSITY, AND CULTURE ARE ASSETS, AND WE AIM TO FOSTER EMPATHY, AWARENESS, AND ADVOCACY IN EVERY SCHOOL STAKEHOLDER. WE STRIVE TO CULTIVATE INCLUSIVITY IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES WITHIN CONNECTICUT, AS WELL AS AT A NATIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.

WE WILL COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATORS TO EXPLORE AND DELVE MORE DEEPLY INTO UNDERSTANDING THE BARRIERS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATIONAL INEQUITY. THE EQUITY SUMMIT IS A SPRINGBOARD FOR CREATING, SUPPORTING, AND SUSTAINING EQUITABLE SCHOOLS ACROSS A CONTINUUM OF STARTING POINTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS BY TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS AND BELIEFS TO ENSURE CULTURAL COMPETENCE AND RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: "WHERE EQUITY IS THE MINDSET, EQUALITY IS THE RESULT. ALL OUR CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES, DESERVE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION THAT HELPS THEM REACH HIGH STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE. THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THAT POTENTIAL IN EVERY CHILD IS ENSURING THAT HE OR SHE IS EMBRACED IN A CULTURE OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND LEARNS FROM GREAT TEACHERS IN A GREAT SCHOOL RUN BY GREAT LEADERS." - THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S FIVE-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2016-21