

INFORMATION ITEM

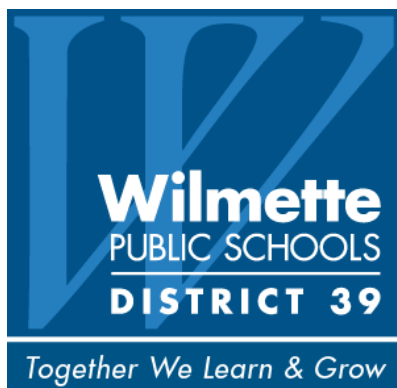
DATE: June 19, 2017
TO: Members, Board of Education
FROM: Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent
SUBJECT: Statement of Inclusion

BACKGROUND

The District established a strategic goal last fall titled School Climate: Creating a Culture of Empathy as part of District 39 Strategic Plan. This goal was approved at the September 2016 Board of Education meeting. The goal addressed reports of bullying, racial and religious tension, and inappropriate use of social media. Being proactive in the areas of empathy, diversity, and inclusiveness fosters a positive classroom culture, stronger community, and higher levels of academic and social success for students.

Attached is a draft Statement of Inclusion intended to enhance the communication of our District beliefs. This articulation of inclusion is in support of the District's mission to nurture, guide, and challenge students to become creative thinkers, collaborators, socially responsible, compassionate, and productive citizens of a global society.

This draft is a first read for the Board of Education. Once approved, the statement will be placed on the District 39 webpage below the Mission Statement.



DRAFT

Statement of Inclusion

District 39 believes inclusion plays a vital role in student growth. We are committed to providing a safe and equitable learning environment that fosters a mindset of empathy, respect, and belonging for all District 39 students and staff.

By respecting each person's unique identity, perspective, and learning style, we create a stronger community. We honor differences including races and cultures, genders and sexualities, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations, socioeconomic status and worldviews. Embracing diversity prepares our students to thrive in an increasingly complex global community.