

Equity Task Force

The equity task force is conscientiously proposing actions to help all of QCSD focus on equity in planning for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. While an immediate aspect of our work is focused on ensuring that all students have equitable access to their Quakertown education next fall, a larger goal is to establish this work and resources as a long-standing commitment to public education in QCSD.

Core Belief:

- In Quakertown Community School District, we believe the heart of all learning is grounded in equitable access to education and will take action to ensure this belief.

Mission:

- As a task force, we continue to analyze potential educational barriers as they apply to QCSD students K-12. We focus on the query: How is the Quakertown Community School District actively working to remove barriers to equitable access to education? Our work, collaboration, and research lead to the following recommendations.

Socio-economic status and Homelife

- Ensure families that are in need of school supplies will have access to pencils, pens, paper, and other specific supplies based upon grade-level expectations.
- Partner with families to provide resources and training about home to school collaboration, creating learning spaces at home, and using technology needed for virtual learning.
- Provide ongoing communication between families and QCSD staff regarding online and in-person learning expectations as well as attendance and illness policies.

Disability

- Teachers will provide daily in-person learning opportunities, on a prioritized basis, if it is determined that students with IEP's cannot receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) virtually. Teachers and administrators will consider students' unique abilities, specific areas of deficit, and the need for specialized programs.
- Develop plans to provide in-person related services, in accordance with health and safety procedures, in order to make every attempt to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- Ongoing professional development for teachers in differentiation, student accommodations, and general instructional practices to engage with students in live and virtual environments.

Emotional

- Create embedded activities to provide emotionally safe and supportive environments for all students. This will include a focus on social and emotional learning and elementary teachers' facilitation of daily morning meetings.
- Teachers will share strategies focused on relationship building, self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and responsible decision making.

Technology

- For ease of access and use, teachers will use the same learning platform for all elementary families (Seesaw) and all secondary families (Canvas).

Language

- QCSD will work with all families to ensure that important information is accessible in the family's primary home language.
- Teachers will utilize QCSD's English Language Development (ELD) program to help our students and to partner with families, as needed.

End state:

- These recommendations are not the end of our work, but only the beginning to ensure that both in-person and virtual instruction meet the needs of our students and families. With a continual focus on equity in planning for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, we will ensure that all students have equitable access to their Quakertown education.