

EXPLORIS EQUITY

Growing access to Exploris

EQUALITY VS EQUITY



What is equity? Why do we need it?

Charter schools like Exploris provide amazing learning opportunities for all students. At the same time, charter schools face the hurdle of access barriers. While everyone in the community can apply to our school, lack of information, busing, and restriction on meals provided at school make it difficult for economic diversity to thrive. The Equity and Diversity Committee, a group of parents, teachers, board members, and administrators are working to address these access barriers.

The great news is that diverse schools are good for everyone. Students from more integrated schools have higher test scores, are more likely to go to college, and are less likely to drop out.

More integrated schools also live into our Exploris mission as "a catalyst for solving present and future problems across the street and around the world." More integrated schools reduce racial bias and stereotypes, improve self-confidence, and enhance leadership skills. Ask any of our committee members for access to the studies that led to these outcomes.

In 2015, the Exploris Board adopted a goal of working to have the school reflect the racial and economic diversity of Wake County within five years. We're excited about the possibilities for our children thriving in new ways through increased attention to and nurturing of equity at Exploris!

How can I help?

01

Join the Equity and Diversity Committee

02

Help with recruitment efforts of diverse students

03

Stay educated about creating an equitable school environment

The Priority Admissions Lottery

The strategic plan for Exploris includes the implementation of a priority lottery for students who qualify as economically disadvantaged. The lottery proposal was reviewed by the Charter School Advisory Board and approved by State Board of Education in October 2018. The new lottery policy will be implemented with the spring 2019 lottery for fall 2019 admissions. Here are some things to know:

What is a priority lottery? A way to give more access to those who meet the federal qualification for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). Applicants who apply to the lottery and qualify for FRL will receive an extra "weight," and will have a better chance of getting into Exploris.

Will siblings still have priority? Children of teachers and staff have 1st priority, siblings 2nd priority, board member children 3rd priority, and economically disadvantaged students 4th priority.

How many economically disadvantaged children will be admitted? Each year Exploris will make enrollment decisions based on the number of seats available and current school resources. A certain number of seats will be set aside for economically disadvantaged students until we reach a 25% target, the percentage that provides the best equity outcomes for the entire school.

What else do you have planned? We look forward to continuing to work with our school on creating a robust cross-cultural environment. Our goals include increasing equity training for our teachers and administrators, creating an opportunity for children with FRL qualification to receive a hot lunch, and to strengthen minority teacher recruitment.

Common misperceptions: Not all FRL-qualifying children are children of color. Most schools show that children who receive FRL require no more EC supports than students who do not qualify. Regardless, an intentionally designed lottery based on FRL has shown to consistently increase economic and racial diversity at charter schools.

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