



District 26 Diversity in Educational Leadership (DEL)
"I AM" Project

Call to the Community

*"You don't choose the time you live in, but you do choose who you want to be."
Grace Lee Boggs.*

Initiated in the Summer of 2016, District and School Leaders came together to provide an opportunity for educators to reflect, discuss, and share personal experiences with equity and access at various levels within their personal and workplace environments. Team members led an introductory session with all Principals and Assistant Principals during our September 2016 Conference. That year, it culminated in the creation of an "I Am" Project video representing District 26.

Since 2016, we have provided numerous trainings for our staff, leaders, parents, and students, held events, conversations, and made curriculum adjustments to deepen this work in our community. The Diversity in Educational Leadership Team has always chosen to be our representative and committed voice to ensuring that we are a district that embraces, values, and acts to ensure diversity, democracy, equity, and social justice.

As a committee, we believe in the need for "trust" amongst members of the community (adults and students), an openness to being vulnerable, demonstrating respect and genuine interest in wanting to know each other, and the belief that this work will only move forward in partnership with students, staff members and families as a cohesive community with real relationships. In response to the feedback we received from our students in our DEL Student Survey in the Spring 2021, we want to support the adults in our community to be "brave" and "regularly" commit to engaging in conversations that build understanding of cultural awareness and racial identities. We believe that if our children experience conversations on diversity, equity, and social-justice, they will be better prepared for the world at large now and in the future. You can read our [full commitments here](#). It is time for us to get to know who we are as the District 26 community again.

We welcome all members of the community, students, staff, families, and community members to share their response to one or more of the following prompts:

- Who you are?
- Where you are from?
- How do you want to be known?
 - What means most to you?
 - What you aspire to achieve?

Ending your video ultimately saying: "I am (one word)"

Please ensure your video is:

- Landscape in filming
- Well-lit and well-heard
- 20 seconds or less
- [Submitted using this form](#) by Monday, May 23, 2022.

Compiled videos will be shared with the community in June 2022. Thank you!