

High Level Overview of ODE's *Establishing and Sustaining District Equity Committees* Guidance

This high-level overview summarizes ODE's updates to [*Establishing and Sustaining District Equity Committees*](#), with references for where to find more information in the guidance.

Legislative Context:

Oregon Administrative Rules & Revised Statutes:

- [ORS 329.711](#) Educational equity advisory committees; rules
 - [ORS 328.542](#) Preparation of district budget
 - [ORS 329.095](#) School district and school self-evaluations
- [OAR 581-022-2307](#) Every school district is responsible for reporting on their compliance as part of the Division 22 Assurances of Compliance process (Guidance, p12).

[House Bill 2453](#) (2025) made important changes to how District Equity Committees operate:

- Advisory Role: Committees now advise the superintendent, not the school board.
- Public Meeting Law: Committees are no longer subject to public meeting requirements
- Membership Selection: The superintendent now selects committee members; board approval is no longer required

Regional Partnership for Small Districts

- Districts with average daily membership of 1650 or less may either establish their own committee or establish a committee in regional partnership (Guidance, p4).
- Regional partnership committees should include at least one member from each district. For more information, see this [resource](#).

Section 1: Purpose and Duties of District Equity Committees

District Equity Committees are meant to help school leaders identify what helps or hinders the success of underrepresented and underserved student groups through the following duties:

Duties of District Equity Committees:

- Advising the superintendent about the educational equity impacts of policy decisions, and
- Informing the superintendent when a situation arises that negatively or positively impacts underrepresented students and advising the superintendent on how best to handle that situation (if negative) or replicate it (if positive).

Considerations/Optional Duties:

- District Equity Committees may consider a wide range of topics and issues, depending on what is most relevant in the district or region.
- A District Equity Committee may choose to prepare an annual report that is shared with the school district board, distributed to parents, posted on the district website, and sent to the State Board of Education and ODE.

Process for Submitting Optional Annual Report

If a District Equity Committee chooses to prepare an annual report, they should submit it to ODE by emailing the report to ODE.EII@ode.oregon.gov by September 15, with subject line: [District/Consortium Name]: District Equity Committee Annual Report. The State Board of Education will receive both a summary of the annual reports ODE receives and access to each submitted report.

Sections 2 & 3: Committee Membership and Structure

District Equity Committees are selected by the school district superintendent, and membership must be:

- Composed of parents, employees, students and community members from the school district, and
- Primarily representative of underserved student groups

The **structure and organization** of a District Equity Committee will vary depending on a district's needs and variables like district size, existing equity teams, and bandwidth to staff the committee. ODE's guidance offers considerations and recommendations, but there is no preset requirement for how a District Equity Committee is structured.

Section 4: Empowering and Resourcing your District Equity

Empowering the District Equity Committee with the right **tools, conditions, context, and resources** is crucial for its long-term success.