



Task Force for Closing the Achievement Gap

By the end of October 2006, the board will appoint a task force that involves appropriate school staff, parents and community members to establish a clear, concise vision statement defining what closing these gaps specifically means to the district and to advise the board regarding strategic goals to implement this vision.

By end of end of February 2007, the district will have developed a draft plan of action extending across the next few years to close these achievement gaps. The plan of action will include recommendations to the board by March 2007 that has measurable objectives, timelines for activities and progress checkpoints.

Criteria and Selection Process for Task Force

Criteria

1. Desirable characteristics for members of the task force include:
 - Good listening skills.
 - Ability to ask incisive questions.
 - Ability to work collaboratively with others.
 - Significant knowledge of DJUSD schools.
 - Past expertise in research that addresses increasing the achievement of under-performing students.
 - Experience and/or expertise in working with English learners, special education students, lower achieving students, and students from diverse social economic backgrounds.
2. Task Force members must have demonstrated personal and professional characteristics that engender credibility and trust throughout the community and with the Board.
3. Other desirable qualifications include oral and written communication skills; a willingness to work hard to study the information presented, think beyond conventional paradigms, and consult broadly; a commitment to be prepared for and attend all task force meetings; and a respect for all points of view.

Selection

1. The Board will appoint a task force with a membership of:

- 3 community members with expertise in the field
- 3 teachers
- 3 counselors and/or principals
- 3 parents of current DJUSD student(s)
- 1 secondary student

Ex-officio members

- Associate Superintendent of Educational Services
- Climate Coordinator
- English Learner Coordinator

Liaison

- 2 Board of Education Members

2. Persons can be nominated or recruited by trustees, or individually apply.
3. All applicants must meet one or more of the criteria as listed in #1 above, and reflect the qualities noted in #2 and #3 above.
4. All applicants must complete the attached application form. The Board will appoint the task force members on the basis of the stated criteria during open session at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.