



Garfield County School District

145 E Center St., Panguitch, UT 84759

Phone: 435-676-8821

November 2, 2023

RE: GEPA 427 STATEMENT

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requires that grant applicants under the Department of Education included a statement on how the LEA will ensure equitable access to federally assisted programs for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.

To address these challenges, the District has adopted a comprehensive approach:

1. **Inclusive Curriculum:** We are dedicated to developing a curriculum that embraces diverse perspectives and backgrounds, ensuring that all students feel represented and valued.
2. **Diversity and Inclusion Training:** Our staff receives ongoing training to promote awareness, understanding, and empathy towards individuals of different genders, races, national origins, colors, abilities, and ages.
3. **Equal Opportunities:** We guarantee that all students, regardless of gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age, have equal access to educational resources, extracurricular activities, and opportunities for academic advancement.
4. **Accommodation for Disabilities:** We provide reasonable accommodations for students and staff with disabilities, ensuring they can fully participate in all aspects of school life.
5. **Cultural Competence:** We celebrate and respect the cultural diversity within our school community, fostering a climate of acceptance and appreciation for various traditions and backgrounds.
6. **Anti-Discrimination Policies:** Our District has robust anti-discrimination policies in place to prevent discrimination based on gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. These policies are enforced consistently.
7. **Outreach and Engagement:** We actively engage with parents, students, and the community to gather feedback and address any concerns related to these barriers. Open lines of communication are essential.
8. **Data Collection and Analysis:** We regularly collect data on student outcomes and experiences, disaggregated by gender, race, national origin, color, disability, and age. This data informs our strategies and interventions.
9. **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to continuous improvement and will adjust our policies and practices as needed to create a more equitable and inclusive educational environment.

It is our mission to create a school district where every individual is treated with respect and given an equal opportunity to thrive.