

network stories

Marin Promise Partnership - Marin County, Calif.



actions

Marin Promise Partnership conducted extensive equity audits of school districts throughout the county through their Keeping Every Door Open initiative, which convened representatives from school districts alongside community partners and representatives from the Education Trust-West. Among other information collected, data from these audits showed that students of color were less likely to opt in to college prep classes or to graduate college-ready from high school. The action team made recommendations and worked with the school boards, community members and families to develop detailed road maps of the policy and practice changes needed.

results

The San Rafael City School Board, within Marin Promise Partnership's scope of service, recently adopted changes to graduation policies that include an ethnic studies requirement as well as a college readiness requirement. These changes will help increase feelings of belonging among students of color and ensure that they are prepared to pursue higher education after high school. To allow youth voice to guide this initiative, the Keeping Every Door Open action team also implemented youth coaching and accountability structures for advocacy tasks by youth organizations. Next steps include formalizing roles for youth and families of color to hold decision-making power over future policy proposals as well as providing opportunities for direct involvement of youth and families in action team processes in earlier policy development stages.



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takeaways

Over the past few years, Marin Promise Partnership has made several shifts toward leading with an anti-racist approach with a policy focus on working against racism at the individual, organizational and structural levels. These shifts resulted in a racial equity progress report, racial equity goals, a racial equity statement being used by partners throughout the county and a partnership-wide commitment to racial equity. Throughout these shifts, partners have worked closely with the backbone team to ensure that the result of any goals and strategies lead to community benefit, particularly for and with communities of color across the county.