

network stories

Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership - Waterbury, Conn.



actions

Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership, in collaboration with Waterbury Public Schools and the State Education Resource Center, established a District Equity Leadership Team to increase culturally responsive policies and practices that improve outcomes for Black, Indigenous and Latinx students. Current data shows a disproportionality between Black and Latinx students and their white counterparts in suspension and expulsion, which occur at rates three times higher for students of color than their white peers. The resources and support of school district leadership, as well as a shift to more equitable practices and policies via the communitywide collaboration, helped reduce that rate by more than 30% in the 2019-2020 school year. Additionally, Waterbury Bridge to Success provides support to the district that seeks to address and dismantle the broader inequities experienced by teachers, students and families from communities of color.

results

The school district has partnered Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership to provide professional development training to a cohort of first-year teachers around race, racism and equity. The goal of this training is to inform a shift from a punitive culture to one that focuses on culturally responsive and restorative practices that support the wellness of youth of color and their social-emotional needs.



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takeaways

Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership has led an institutional policy shift in the district that will standardize new educator training to shift culture and climate in the school buildings to better support Black, Indigenous and Latinx students. Inclusion of parents and school staff in work around racially equitable policies can inform changes that are culturally responsive to the communities they represent by drawing on lived experience.