

Mirror, Mirror On the Wall:

Reflecting on My Commitment to Educational Justice & Equity

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We believe the only way to change behavior is to increase your knowledge to reshape your beliefs. As you complete this reflection, think deeply and be honest with yourself about your beliefs and subsequent behaviors related to educational justice and equity. Then, regardless of whether you lead a classroom, a campus, or an entire educational community, decide on and commit to next steps for you in your role as a school leader. Read this post then begin your personal reflection! <https://www.slsj.info/post/how-school-leaders-reinforce-supremacy-through-discipline-behavior-expectations>

What do you know and believe about racial inequity in schools?

What do you believe you can do to disrupt injustice and inequity in your classroom, campus, or in your educational community?

Take a look at any data that you have related to student achievement or student discipline. Where is inequity present in your classroom, campus, or educational community?

What have you done to disrupt this inequity?

Where have you been silent or complicit in this inequity? Why?

Who has your silence or complicitness hurt? How?

Who has your silence or complicitness helped? How?

What do you really believe about students and learning? What views might you hold that are problematic and prohibitive to educational equity?

What actions are within your locus of control to disrupt these inequities? What CAN you do to effect change? What happens if you don't take action?

Now, review your reflections. What commitments and actionable steps can you/will you take in the new year to disrupt inequity and lead for justice. Write your response as an "I WILL" statement and include the implications if you fail to act.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Injustice in our education system is a threat to injustice in our economic, healthcare, and judicial systems. Too much is at stake for us to maintain the status quo in our classrooms, campuses, and educational communities. It is time for all of us to get radical about injustice and inequity. We have to open our eyes to see it, open our hearts to accept that we have played a part in it, and close our fists and fight it. The fight for justice and equity in schools is just that - a fight. It is not going to come easy; if it were easy to attain, we would have already accomplished it. Education is a civil right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that every student we serve - especially Black and Hispanic students who have historically been denied equitable academic opportunity - has access to a high-quality education. It is critical. For some, it is a matter of life or death. Choose life. Our students deserve it.

-Sharla