

MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center

10611 Tenbrook Drive • Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 • Phone: 240-740-5150 • Fax: 301-592-3425



May 26, 2023

Dear MacDonald Knolls EEC Families,

Our school commits to fostering learning environments in which all students, families, and staff feel a sense of belonging. Recognizing the racial disparities that have persisted in how students experience school and access opportunities, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) worked collaboratively with the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) to examine policies, practices, and structures that must change to ensure schools create the conditions for all students to thrive.

Over 130,000 students, staff, and families shared insights over the course of two years. Our school has been analyzing the survey results of our students, staff, and families. Eight staff members and 11 parents and families took the survey at this school. The full results will be posted on our school's website soon. We will alert you when it is uploaded. We are writing to summarize our survey results so that we can work together with families to gain deeper insights into what our data means for actions we must take to continuously improve. We studied the specific results where we saw the most significant differences in the experiences of students, staff, and families by racial group. A summary of our work so far is below.

WHAT WE EXAMINED

1. For Parents and Families, we examined the school's culture, curriculum, family, and community engagement. Overall, parents and families agreed that MKECC is sensitive to their children's culture and meets the needs of students as it relates to academic, instructional needs and socio-emotional needs in a safe learning environment.
2. Teachers and related staff agree that MKECC is a positive and safe workplace that values individuals and treats everyone fairly.
3. Parents and Families, as well as teachers and related staff agree that MKECC provides a welcoming environment for every student.
4. The majority of those surveyed agree that the district provides varied opportunities for teachers to develop professionally to support all learners.
5. Most agree that there is open and continuous communication with parents and families from the school.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Not all families were represented in the survey data collection.
- The survey concluded that all families who participated in the survey were satisfied with the work of the school.
- There should be more opportunities for parents to engage in the surveys.

OUR NEXT STEPS

- Determine multiple ways for the upcoming school year to collect parent voice data around

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equity.

- Determine multiple ways to develop school and family partnerships.
- Forward to respective homeschools the disaggregated data.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

- Attend one or more sessions hosted by the school to gain more understanding of the audit.
- Share possible barriers for participation and engagement.
- Join PTA and attend family information nights at your child's homeschool to continue understanding the work of the audit.
- During your intake with your child's teachers, share any specific information that will aid your teacher and school in supporting your child wholly.

We look forward to continuing to engage with families as partners in designing and monitoring a school improvement plan that includes actions we will take because of our data. We are confident that by working together we can increase our students' access to opportunities and ensure that all students, staff, and families experience a sense of belonging in our school community.

Thank you for your partnership,

Sheri L. Anderson,
Coordinator