

EDI in Action:

Newport Mesa Unified School District



The District At A Glance

- Approximately 22,000 students at 32 schools
- 12 preschool sites
- Demographics
 - 44% Hispanic, Latino/a
 - 42% White
 - 5% Asian, Native American, or other Pacific Islander
 - 9% Multiracial
- Students with English Language Learner Status – 32%
- Children Living with Foreign Born Parents – 41%
- Students who receive free or reduced lunch – 44%

EDI Snapshot: Critical Concerns

In Newport Mesa Unified School District, the first Orange County school district to participate in the collection of EDI, the data revealed two areas of great need:

- 44% of its kindergarten population lack necessary gross and fine motor skills

Gross and Fine Motor Skills

56%
Ready



16%
Somewhat
Ready



28%
Not Ready



- And many students are falling behind in social-emotional development, including 52% of students showing significant gaps in overall social competence and 51% of students displaying little or no prosocial and helping behavior.

Overall Social Competence

48%
Ready



41%
Somewhat
Ready



11%
Not Ready



Prosocial and Helping Behavior

49%
Ready



28%
Somewhat
Ready



23%
Not Ready



Action Plan

The EDI data served as the catalyst for the district to make needed changes and address these critical concerns, including the implementation of two new early learning curriculums.

- To improve **gross and fine motor skills** of its youngest learners, Newport Mesa implemented a new curriculum. *Called Hand Writing Without Tears*, the program helps young students understand the basics of writing and how to physically tackle the school day – from how to grasp a pencil, how to hold scissors appropriately to learning new letters and numbers.
- To address the gaps in **social-emotional development**, *Second Step*, an early learning curriculum focused on how a child learns and gets along with others was implemented. The Second Step program teaches skills in four critical areas: **Skills for Learning**, including how to focus and listen carefully; **Empathy**, how to understand their own and others' feelings; **Emotion Management**, how to calm down when experiencing strong feelings such as worry or anger; and **Friendship Skills and Problem Solving**, how to make and keep friends and solve problems in a positive way.



Catalyst for Change

The quick mobilization by Newport Mesa Unified School District to make needed changes and address critical concerns for its youngest learners is encouraging. The EDI data served as the catalyst for these changes and provided a clear map of where resources were needed to create more enriching environments for children and their families.

Both new curriculums were rolled out in the 2018/19 school year, and results are already shining through – students are sharing better with one another and showing noticeable growth in overall social-emotional development.

Newport Mesa will continue to monitor and track progress of its youngest learners in these critical areas over time to make sure a lasting positive impact is made as a result of its new programs and ensure all students are progressing on a positive trajectory for success in school, and ultimately in life.