

## **SAMPLE GUIDING BELIEFS FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

**Developed by Barbara A. Bitters ©**

1. All children can learn, at high achievement levels, when equity is infused into every aspect of education.
2. Principles of equality, fairness and equity are fundamental to our ideals of a democratic society and are codified in our constitution (s) and laws. Equal educational opportunities, educational equity and the preparation of students for adult success in a pluralistic and democratic society have long been goals of educators. The fact that these are goals and ideals are of long standing does not mean we have achieved them.
3. Achieving educational equity is a continuous process of assessment, reflection, and continuous improvement.
4. The responsibility for learning about and advancing the cause of equity and diversity belongs to each and every member of the educational organization and the community, including learners. Each educator, learner, and community member can make a significant contribution to a high level of equality and justice for all in our state.
5. It is important to empower educators and their partners to address equity and diversity by reflecting on critical equity questions, concerns, strategies and activities and by directing and supporting our customers toward the resources that will help address equity and diversity in every school, worksite and community.
6. Educational approaches that benefit culturally and linguistically diverse, female and disabled learners also benefit “mainstream” learners and the educational enterprise as a whole. Meaningful contact between educators and learners, active student involvement in learning, and a curriculum enriched by multicultural, gender fair and disability aware (or inclusive) perspectives are good for all learners and citizens.
7. Equity work will help to build bridges--between educators and learners, parents and community partners as we all work together to realize and benefit from the value of diversity through increasingly equitable and inclusive institutions.
8. We will strive to model equity within the workings of our own team or organization and encourage others to do likewise.
9. Prejudice, bigotry, and stereotypes are learned and can be unlearned.