



RE·CENTER

RACE & EQUITY IN EDUCATION

formerly The Discovery Center

“

All of us... are called to renew our minds if we are to transform educational institutions—and society—so that the way we live, teach, and work can reflect our joy in cultural diversity, our passion for justice, and our love of freedom.

”

— bell hooks

OUR MISSION

RE•CENTER is committed to building an equitable and just world where everyone has what they need to grow and thrive. We work in partnership with youth, families, schools, and communities to facilitate nurturing spaces where people can understand and challenge systemic racism and oppression. In all of our programs, we practice critical questioning, cultivate connection, and inspire action.



OUR VALUES

Our values are the compass for our work, and guide our actions.



EQUITY + JUSTICE



LEARNING + GROWTH



COMMUNICATION



RELATIONSHIPS
+ COMMUNITY



EXCELLENCE



OPTIMISM



IMPACT

WHAT WE DO

Our work starts and finishes with students—they are our true north. We provide support to all of those working to transform their K-12 schools into equitable learning environments. Our goal is to create an ecosystem of empowered students supported by conscious, critically-thinking adults, and supportive, safe schools and communities.

RE•CENTER (formerly The Discovery Center) has been working toward a future without prejudice since our founding by actor and philanthropist Paul Newman in 1992. We provide training, professional development, technical assistance, coaching, and other supports for all members of the school community including students, administrators, teachers, school staff, parents, and community members.

In general, an equitable learning environment looks like:

- + Educators are aware of the impact that race—and other social identities—have on teaching and learning, and are able to respond to oppression that occurs.
- + School environments are connected, affirming, and restorative.
- + Curriculum is meaningfully multicultural.
- + Student and family voices are centered in decision-making processes.
- + School systems maintain conditions that attract and retain teachers of color.
- + Funding for schools is equitable.
- + There is a clear and continuous process to identify and address inequities.



We are a trusted resource in our field.

In addition to our programs and partnerships with local education communities, our work has been presented at the National Coalition on School Diversity, the Ford Foundation's *K-12 School Integration Convening*, the State Education Resource Center's *Dismantling Systemic Racism* conference, the State of Connecticut Alliance Districts Conference, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education's *Beyond Desegregation: Promising Practices for Diverse and Equitable Schools* conference.

RE•CENTER staff members are frequently asked to facilitate community discussions and forums in central Connecticut and beyond.

For more information about how we can help your school or organization, please email info@re-center.org.

HOW WE DO IT

We offer programs for educators and students using transformative activities and dialogue. Our work focuses on changing hearts and minds and inspiring participants to create equitable learning environments.

① EDIFY

We provide history, framing, power analysis, identity development, empathic motivation, and community accountability, equipping educators to center the voices of those who've been marginalized in their school systems. This work is provided in the following formats:

- + **Relationships with school systems:** co-create a process to prioritize and sustain equity.
- + **Equity workshops:** provided in 2-hour, 6-hour and 12-hour formats. Open to educators, parents, and others seeking to move forward in their journeys of equity.
- + **Partnerships with individual schools or youth-serving organizations:** working towards long-term goals.
- + **Partnerships with other organizations:** seeking to make systemic change in education.
- + **Youth leadership and development:** around issues of race and equity.



② Equity-Informed School Climate Assessment (EISCA)

EISCA aims to replace traditional school climate surveys with a robust assessment of school systems through an equity lens. EISCA zeroes in on the connection between school culture and climate, racial equity, and student achievement. Through focusing on the experiences and solutions offered by students and staff who hold marginalized identities, ALL students are served well. **RE•CENTER** developed EISCA in collaboration with EdChange and Manchester Public Schools. The EISCA process includes:

- + Assessing the experiences of students, families, and staff through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic site visits.
- + Reviewing district and school policies and practices.
- + Lifting up solutions to address inequities identified by those most impacted.
- + Providing support to implement strategies for sustaining more equitable school environments.

③ Discovery Camp

Discovery Camp provides a unique opportunity for 5th and 6th-grade students in the greater Hartford region to learn about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Students learn leadership skills necessary to recognize and interrupt racism and prejudice while making friends and building relationships.

Students engage in life-changing experiential learning in a 3 or 5-day residential program in a beautiful camp setting. Students attend the program as a class with their teachers, who also receive training in equity and anti-racism.



Life-changing
outdoor experiences.



Activities at Discovery Camp include:

- + Team building exercises
- + Adventures including a climbing tower
- + Exploration of social justice topics relevant to youth
- + STEM-based learning using the natural setting



Where kids explore
the meaning of teamwork
and inclusion.



I'd like to thank Discovery camp

For making it the best
3 days of my life.



RE·CENTER
RACE & EQUITY IN EDUCATION

CONNECT WITH US

info@re-center.org
o. 860.284.9489
f. 860.284.9637

75 Charter Oak Avenue
Suite 1-310
Hartford, CT 06106

re-center.org

  @recenterct