

**Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools  
Interfaith Advisory Council Charter**

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**Vision:**

The Interfaith Advisory Council supports the emotional and intellectual development of CMS students, teachers and staff from a faith-based perspective.

**Mission:**

The Interfaith Advisory Council serves as a resource to the Superintendent in the development and implementation of the district's goals, strategies and objectives by being a voice of the interfaith community.

**Purpose:**

The Interfaith Advisory Council is a diverse group of community leaders who speak freely from a variety of faith perspectives on issues, including, but not limited to, the quality of education, inclusiveness, and equity in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

**Superintendent's Roles/Responsibilities:**

- Partner with the chair(s) in establishing the agenda that reflects the Superintendent and faith community issues
- Schedule and attend quarterly meetings during school calendar year
- Consult with the IAC to assist with the development of initiatives that will support the quality of education, inclusiveness and equity in CMS
- Create opportunities to increase faith based partnerships
- Be responsive to concerns and issues brought by the IAC
- Provide annual report on faith-based partners (state of quality)
- Seek wisdom of IAC in the development of goals, strategies and objectives
- Support religious diversity training
- Communicate and inform the IAC about current matters related to faith and diversity in CMS
- Identify and engage the IAC to serve on committees as needed

**Interfaith Advisory Council's Roles/Responsibilities:**

- Provide input, guidance and feedback individually or as a group to the Superintendent on issues surrounding quality of education, inclusiveness, and equity within CMS.
- Serve as a resource to enhance CMS's capacity to serve a religiously diverse student population
- Serve as advocates for the quality of education, inclusiveness, and equity in CMS

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- Recommend community partners and identify potential collaborators for faith-based initiatives related to public schools
- Assist the Diversity Office in establishing a bona fide annual religious calendar as well as general calendar of religious observances
- Advise the Superintendent in the develop of CMS’s goals, strategies and objectives
- Promote, support, and make recommendations on diversity training and cultural competency educational efforts
- Be a resource or provide a person to be part of a speaker’s bureau
- Serve as a liaison to individual faith communities
- Provide orientation to new members

**Membership:**

*Nomination process*

1. Recommendations will be accepted from staff and council members throughout the year. Nominations will be made in March using recommendations, and information about potential members will be shared with the council. Council members are encouraged to reach out to meet with nominees.
2. Feedback from council members will be shared with superintendent (or designee) prior to May meeting. Superintendent or designee may also meet with recommended candidates prior to appointment decision.
3. The superintendent will announce new appointments at the May meeting. New members will take up their duties with the start of the school year in August.

*Election of chair/co-chairs*

The council will choose a chair and/or co-chair(s) to serve a two-year term in May. The term will begin in August.

**Meetings:**

*Agenda-setting process*

1. Council chair(s) and superintendent will collaborate to create meeting agenda.
2. Chair(s) will set the business section of the agenda.
3. Superintendent will establish dialogue topic section of agenda.
4. The council meets up to four times a year (quarterly)

*Attendance requirement*

1. Regular attendance is a requirement of membership
  - a. Members are expected to attend at least two meetings per year
  - b. If a member cannot attend a meeting, he or she is expected to notify the chair 48 hours in advance and provide the chair with the name of your designee who will attend in your stead. This will help us ensure that all meetings are productive.

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2. Members who miss more than two meetings in a school calendar year will be asked to vacate their seats.

**Decision Making Process:**

When the Superintendent seeks guidance on issues, the IAC will provide recommendations, rather than present one decision to the Superintendent. If a decision is needed, the IAC will make the decision by consensus.

**Committee:**

The IAC may appoint an adhoc committee to assist on the issues of substance when needed.