

Courtney Winkfield Biography

Courtney Winkfield is a parent of two children, ages 8 and 10, and is the Senior Strategy & Policy Advisor for the NYC Department of Education's Office of Equity & Access (OEA). OEA develops initiatives and strategies to address long-standing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities and promotes equity and excellence in education through policy and advocacy both within and outside of the NYCDOE. As a member of the OEA senior leadership team for the past 18 months, Courtney has developed strategies to support system-wide anti-bias training as well as District equity team capacity building. She leads the AP for All initiative, which increases access to and participation and performance in open-enrollment AP courses across NYCDOE high schools.

From 2006 to 2016 Courtney served as a founding teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal of the Academy for Young Writers, a public secondary school in East New York, Brooklyn serving grades 6 -12. Under Courtney's leadership as Principal, Young Writers took expanded opportunities for young people, including increasing the number of AP courses offered and creating multiple STEM pathways for all students. Courtney also led the development of a nationally-recognized 6-12 Gender-Sexuality Alliance to empower and give voice to LGBTQ+ students, and established a student-led Restorative Justice program. Courtney believes in the power of personal relationships in academic achievement and that students achieve when they feel connected to a community.

Courtney grew up across the United States and spent her high school and college years in the Pacific Northwest, earning a Bachelors in English from Lewis & Clark College. A passion for urban education drew Courtney to join the NYC Teaching Fellows in 2004 where she earned her Master's in English Education from Lehman College CUNY. Courtney lives in South Orange, NJ with her husband of 17 years, David, and their two children.