

Joint Resolution No. 20-36
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California

Condemning Racism and Injustice and Reaffirming Equity Through Antiracist Actions and Commitments

Whereas, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other Black Americans demonstrate the ongoing systemic bias and institutional racism in American society and highlight our nation's history of violence, racism, and disregard for the humanity, dignity, and lives of students, families, and communities of color; and

Whereas, the San Mateo County Board of Education and San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools recognize all human beings are born free, are equal in dignity and rights, and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of society; and

Whereas, the San Mateo County Board of Education and San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools refuse to remain silent about the destructive impact of racism and the racist systems in America, and instead commit to stand up, speak out, take action, and fight for a better world for our children; and

Whereas, understanding racism, racial injustice, racial inequality in America is integral to understanding both the myth of meritocracy in the United States and the everyday experiences of people of color; and

Whereas, dismantling the white supremacist culture and the unchecked institutional racism that abounds in our educational system is a key lever for creating a more equitable and anti-racist community, nation, and world; and

Whereas, racism, racial bias, and bigotry in American schools and communities negatively impacts students of color and their families, often relegating them to school systems with fewer resources and opportunities and hindering their ability to access and benefit from public education in the same way other students do; and

Whereas, students of color are the targets of harsh discipline policies that make black students twice as likely as white students to be suspended, continuing a trend that begins in early life with black preschoolers representing 20% of the preschool population, yet constituting 50% of preschool suspensions; and

Whereas, schools have an important role to play in examining and addressing policies and procedures that are racist and hold back students of color instead of nurturing their intelligence and protecting their futures; and

Whereas, educational outcomes for historically underserved students, including students of color, lag significantly behind their white and Asian peers; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools stand in solidarity with the Black community in our schools, district, and nation to condemn this violence and the blatant disrespect by some Americans for Black lives; and

Be It Further Resolved the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools commit to our own work as individuals and our collective work overseeing the county's education system to pursue equitable and anti-racist behaviors, actions, and policies, and committing ourselves to eradicating institutional racism in our schools and to eliminating disparities in educational outcomes for students of color; and

Be It Further Resolved the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools clearly and unequivocally affirm that Black Lives Matter.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Passed and Adopted on this
Seventeenth Day of June 2020

President

