

13. RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN K-12 EDUCATION FOR EACH OHIO STUDENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR RESPECT TO RACE, ETHNICITY, OR CREED

The State Board of Education (the "Board") hereby adopts the following Resolution:

WHEREAS on July 14, 2020, the State Board of Education adopted a Resolution to Condemn Racism and to Advance Equity for Black Students, Indigenous Students and Students of Color (the "Resolution"); and

WHEREAS the Board has since observed not only a growing national divide but a troubling focus on the color of one's skin rather than on the content of one's character; and

WHEREAS on July 13, 2021, the Board adopted a Resolution Requesting a Formal Opinion from the Ohio Attorney General on "whether the Resolution as adopted conforms with state and federal laws and is within the legal authority of the Board"; and

WHEREAS on September 14, 2021, Attorney General Dave Yost issued opinion 2021-022, which stated the Board does not have authority to require that all contractors working with the Department of Education take implicit bias training; and

WHEREAS the Board recognizes there are numerous factors that contribute to discrepancies in student performance and that one of those factors is race; and

WHEREAS the Board affirms its concern about the performance gaps between various groups of students, including between Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color and their White peers, a gap which has existed since Ohio began disaggregating the data; and

WHEREAS the ongoing pandemic has significantly impacted all students and has exacerbated existing performance gaps between students, which is likely to have devastating effects on their future and on the future of the state; and

WHEREAS the State Board of Education seeks excellence in education for all children and families, without prejudice or respect to race, ethnicity, or creed; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education emphatically affirms the primary place of academics in Ohio's K-12 public schools; and be it further

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education repeals the Resolution to Condemn Racism and to Advance Equity and Opportunity for Black Students, Indigenous Students and Students of Color; and be it further

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education instructs the Ohio Department of Education to immediately suspend all policies and requirements enacted pursuant to the Resolution until further Board review; and be it further

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education reiterates its condemnation of racism, hate speech, hate crimes and violence in the service of hatred; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education declares that Critical Race Theory and its tenets have no place in K-12 education; and be it further

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RESOLVED that the State Board of Education similarly condemns any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, moral deficiency, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people; and be it further

RESOLVED that with this action the State Board of Education expresses its unwavering commitment to excellence in education for all, education that empowers each student to reach his or her full potential as a member of the next great generation of Ohioans.