



Resolution

20. RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN RACISM AND TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACK STUDENTS, INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF COLOR

The State Board of Education (the “Board”) hereby **ADOPTS** the following Preambles and Resolution:

As our nation grapples with the hard truths of racism and inequality, we are listening with broken hearts and engaging with determined spirits. We acknowledge that Ohio’s education system has not been immune to these problems, and while we earnestly strive to correct them, we have a great deal of work left to do.

Whereas the Ohio Strategic Plan for Education: 2019-2024 Each Child, Our Future, adopted by a resolution of the State Board of Education in June, 2018 begins with the vision that in Ohio each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society; and

Whereas, Equity is our plan’s greatest imperative and number one principle; and

Whereas profound disparities between Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students and their white peers exist in all parts of the Ohio education system; and

Whereas gaps between test performance of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students and their white peers have been observed since Ohio began disaggregating the data; and

Whereas progress to close these gaps has been uneven and unsatisfactory; and

Whereas a culturally responsive curriculum reflects the history and background of all students, and empowers students to value all cultures, not just their own; and

Whereas research has shown that a culturally responsive curriculum can motivate students of color to a higher level of academic achievement and in many cases increase the graduation rate of previously disengaged students; and

Whereas, black male students lag far behind their white counterparts in several measures of educational attainment, including graduation rates, which keeps gainful employment out of reach, and

Whereas starting as early as preschool, black male students are affected disproportionately by suspensions, expulsions and zero-tolerance discipline policies in schools; and

Whereas “separate but equal” is no longer the law of the land, but systemic inequity in education has relegated millions of children of color to under-resourced, struggling schools; and

Whereas significant gaps between the performance of Black students compared to their white peers exist even in generously resourced schools; and



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Whereas the State Board of Education believes that public schools are fundamental to our democratic society and we must be dedicated to equity and thoughtful teaching of future citizens that racism, bigotry and hatred have no place; and

Whereas, the path to equity begins with a deep understanding of the history of inequalities and inhumanity and how they have come to impact current society; therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education condemns, in the strongest possible terms, white supremacy culture, hate speech, hate crimes and violence in the service of hatred. These immoral ideologies and actions deserve no place in our country, state and school system. And be it

Further resolved, that the starting point of our work in racial equity must be reflection and internal examination, whereby the board will look for ways to engage our members in open and courageous conversations on racism and inequity; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education shall offer training to Board members to identify our own implicit biases so that we can perform our duties to the citizens of Ohio without racial bias; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education shall require training for all state employees and contractors working with the Department of Education to identify their own implicit biases so that they can perform their duties to the citizens of Ohio without unconscious racial bias; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education directs the Ohio Department of Education to reexamine the Academic Content Standards and Model Curriculums to make recommendations to the State Board of Education as necessary to eliminate bias and ensure that racism and the struggle for equality are accurately addressed; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education directs the Ohio Department of Education to continue the practice of ensuring all state administered tests are free of racial bias; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education strongly recommends that all Ohio school districts begin a reflection and internal examination of their own involving all members of their school community to examine all facets of the school's operations ; with a special emphasis on curriculum, hiring practices, staff development practices, and student discipline e.g. suspension/expulsion; and be it

Further resolved that the State Board of Education directs the Ohio Department of Education to provide support for school districts' reflection and internal examination, including identifying and sharing curricular models and resources; promoting sessions to allow districts to share and collaborate on their actions; and to share progress in implementing these changes; and be it



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Further resolved, that the State Board of Education will be led by our guiding document Each Child, Our Future and advocate for it as a framework for developing policy and action.

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the State Board of Education at its meeting on July 14, 2020.

Columbus, Ohio
July 14, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paolo A. DeMaria". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction