



## The School District of Philadelphia

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Board of Education

DRAFT Black Lives Matter Resolution

August 12, 2020

### **Black Lives Matter Resolution**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Education of The School District of Philadelphia to declare that we believe our agenda must drive systemic change and dismantle racist practices in a system that far too often has gone unfunded and unchanged.

WHEREAS, education is the key to fostering equity in society, and that education itself must be equitable, especially in a city with a high rate of poverty and in a school district with a majority of students of color;

WHEREAS, there are policies and practices in our current education system that perpetuate inequities for Black students and limit access to equitable opportunities. These include practices that disproportionately, under-represent Black students in special admission schools, and disciplinary practices that impact Black students at significantly higher rates than their peers.

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to reviewing and amending all policies and practices that reinforce structural racism in our system. These include addressing inequities in admissions policies, student discipline practices, adopting hiring practices that promote racial diversity which is reflective of our student body, and advocating for equitable funding.

WHEREAS, our intent is to cultivate in Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, self-love, and to develop a widespread acknowledgement and appreciation for the contributions of Black people to our community;

WHEREAS, the national Black Lives Matter At School movement offers resources to promote educational opportunities that encourage ongoing reflection, critical thinking, and honest conversations around systemic racism, racial injustice, and building communities that are inclusive of all people;

WHEREAS, educators nationwide - including Philadelphia - are organizing a week of action and education to promote the message that Black Lives Matter At School;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter At School Week is a national movement of educators, students, family members, and other community members coming together to encourage racial awareness in education. The Black Lives Matter At School Week movement is intended to educate, uplift, and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community;



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WHEREAS, the Board believes participating in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week is an important step in promoting educational equity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Board of Education encourages the School District of Philadelphia to participate in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week moving forward during the first week of February each year.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Board of Education sees this action as only one step in the critical work of Black Lives Matter. In 2020, the Board shall adopt and monitor Goals and Guardrails that drive systemic change and dismantle racist practices in our education system. The Board will hold itself accountable to these principles by setting clear goals for closing the achievement gap, ending disproportionate disciplinary outcomes and admissions practices, and hiring educators that more closely resembles our student population's racial demographics.