



Illinois State Board of Education

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www.isbe.net

Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE STATE BOARD'S COMMITMENT TO ELIMINATE RACIAL INJUSTICE

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is committed to ensuring public schools in Illinois provide safe and welcoming spaces where all students are able to focus on their education, secure in the knowledge that their safety and emotional well-being will be supported, regardless of race or ethnicity;

WHEREAS, ISBE recognizes that historical and ongoing systems of inequitable and inadequate resource allocation, punitive disciplinary practices, lack of access to and supports for administrators and teachers of color, unequal access to educational opportunities and supports, implicit bias, and segregation perpetuate inequity in the outcomes of students of different races and ethnicities;

WHEREAS, the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubrey and countless other Black men and women, along with the backdrop of COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on communities of color, provide an urgent reminder and rationale for ISBE to recommit, on behalf of the state's education community, to racial equity and justice; and

WHEREAS, ISBE appreciates the necessary and important work our public school districts are doing to advance racial equity and justice, but is keenly aware that we and our school districts can, with intentionality, do more.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois State Board of Education:

- (1) Supports our courageous and committed district leaders, teachers and students across the state who have been organizing and participating in peaceful demonstrations for substantive and lasting change that honors the human dignity and protects the humanity of all members of our state;
- (2) Reaffirms its focus on developing and promoting state education policies that uplift, honor and promote equity of opportunity for our communities of color and identifying and dismantling any policies that, implicitly or explicitly, perpetuate institutional racism;
- (3) Recognizes our position of authority, will continuously check and question our biases, beliefs and actions, and asks to be held accountable so that this long overdue transformation towards racial justice becomes permanent and normalized, and does not fade when this tragic and painful moment passes; and,
- (4) Encourages all Illinois public school boards to join with us in a commitment to critically examine and address policies and practices with a racial equity lens, eliminate racial injustice and, as an important message to their communities, adopt and publicly post resolutions affirming that commitment to action.

Member Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas moved the adoption of the Resolution and Member Dr. Donna Leak seconded it.

ADOPTED this 17th day of June 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Darren Reisberg, Dr. Donna Leak, Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Dr. Christine Benson, Dr. David Lett, Susie Morrison, Jane Quinlan, Jacqueline Robbins

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Cynthia Latimer