



Proclamation

Black Lives Matter at School Week - February 5-9, 2024

A Proclamation of the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington to declare support for the national Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action.

WHEREAS, students have the right to live unapologetically Black and this position does not need to be qualified. Desiring freedom and justice is a prerequisite for advocating for the social, physical, and mental wellness of themselves and others.

WHEREAS, our Black students, families and staff have experienced the deeply institutionalized and structural racism that exists in our schools and society, through microaggressions, pervasive bias, explicit racist language, actions and discriminatory and disparate treatment;

WHEREAS, any racism experienced by our Black students and families is unacceptable, unjust, and will not be tolerated and;

WHEREAS as an educational community it is our duty to fight for the rights of our Black students, families and staff and teach our students and community about racism and the lived experiences of our Black community,

WHEREAS, there is no place for racism in our world, our community and our schools. Black students have the right to be educated within our School District where students, educators, families and staff are part of an anti-racist village, a village where we hold our system and ourselves accountable for individual, institutionalized and structural racism. We are committed to actions that support each other, to bring awareness to issues of racial and social justice, and learning collectively - as educators, students, families, and staff.

WHEREAS, students' understanding of history and events is shaped by the texts in which the stories are contained and the voices of those who tell them, our students' intergenerational networks, and our students' global world;

WHEREAS, our students have the right to be educated within a village committed to nurturing their courage and skills to confront personal, systemic and societal bias, while recognizing the many types of privilege that exist within our society;

WHEREAS, Students have the right to engage with schools and community partners that are committed to collectively, lovingly, and courageously working for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people.

WHEREAS, no individual is free until all are free and our collective liberation from racism is intersectionality tied to all those who are oppressed. Each and every student has the right to a school system that confronts and dismantles racial inequity and discrimination, and any discrimination experienced on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, the use of a trained service animal, age and veteran or military status, and any & all intersections of these identities.



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WHEREAS, students have the right to engage in reflection and honest conversations in school communities on issues of social justice, equity, the intersectionality of oppression and the legacy of institutionalized racism and oppression that has plagued the United States since its founding;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is endorsed by the National Education Association and was first conceived by teachers in Seattle in 2016;

WHEREAS, the national demands of the 2024 Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action align with the Olympia School District's stated desire and continued efforts to practice restorative justice and empathy to combat disproportionate discipline for students of color and many marginalized populations in our schools, diversify the educator workforce, incorporate more culturally relevant curriculum and culturally sustaining pedagogy into our schools, and increase staffing for counseling and student support services;

WHEREAS, this continued dialogue belongs in our classrooms, in our hallways, in our lunchrooms, in our gymnasiums, across our schools, and within our homes, and everywhere in our community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that, the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington endorses and encourages our community to participate in the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action to be held February 5 - February 9, 2024;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Board calls on all district staff to teach with the resources, and engage in professional learning, grounded in the 13 Guiding Principles of Black Lives Matter at School. The Board encourages educators, students, families, and staff to incorporate the 13 Guiding Principles of Black Lives Matter at School into their discussions about race and privilege all year long by teaching Black Lives Matter lessons aligned with Washington State Learning Standards, to realize Olympia School District's Student Outcome 4, which states "Our students will have the skills, knowledge and courage to identify and confront personal, systemic and societal bias."

OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111

THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Patrick Murphy, Superintendent

Hilary Seidel, President and Director

Scott Clifthorne, Vice-President and Director

Maria Flores, Director

Jessica Palumbo-Tourtellotte, Director

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