



**Resolution condemning racism and affirming our commitment
to equitable, anti-racist school environments for all**

WHEREAS, we, members of the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors, condemn the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Dion Johnson and the many other Black and Brown lives on a list that is far too long, whose unnecessary deaths demonstrate the vileness of prejudice, injustice and systemic racism that persists in our country; and

WHEREAS, racism continues to exist in all social systems, including schools; and

WHEREAS, condemning racism is not enough to end racism; and

WHEREAS, purposeful action against all forms of racism, both individual and organizational, is necessary to dismantle racism; and

WHEREAS, achieving ASBA's vision of the best schools in every Arizona community requires that systemic racism and inequities be removed; and

WHEREAS, ASBA's core values and mission of cultivating excellence in locally governed school districts requires our purposeful and persistent pursuit of equity, which includes being anti-racist; and

WHEREAS, public schools must be the greatest hope for the future success and prosperity of each and every child in Arizona and America; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a responsibility to ensure the highest ideals of justice, citizenship and human dignity are demonstrated and upheld in our schools, from the governing board table to the classroom, and all places and spaces in between, and that the Constitutional rights of every person who learns and works in our schools are protected; and

WHEREAS, public schools strive to create a safe and enriching space that values the unique attributes, experiences and identities of our students, staff, families, and community; and

WHEREAS, public schools have the responsibility to acknowledge that racism still may be embedded in our schools.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors recognizes

- School district governing board members, as leaders and representatives of their communities, are responsible for setting and modeling key values of the districts they serve and have a critical role in acting against racism and addressing educational disparities and inequities within their districts.
- Student achievement and positive student outcomes are the central focus of the work of school boards; and
- Opportunity gaps exist in every school and in every district and that racism, both individual and systemic, contribute to those gaps; and



- School boards are responsible for setting the expectations and making decisions that support educators in closing opportunity gaps ; and
- Increasing educational equity and acting against racism require school boards to have trusting and collaborative relationships with the many communities they serve to be successful in their endeavors; and
- Educational equity and purposeful action against racism are ongoing journeys, not a fixed destination.

SO, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors, stand committed to leading and advocating in ways which support and advance more equitable and inclusive educational environments, free of racism, where every student, teacher, staff, parent and community member is treated with dignity and respect.

Approved by the Arizona School Boards Association Board of Directors this 26 day of June, 2020.

Signed by:

Steven Chapman, President
Ann O'Brien, President Elect
Torri Anderson, Treasurer
James Bryce, Secretary
Linda Lyon, Immediate Past President
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Kara Kelty, Coconino County Director
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Karen McClelland, Yavapai County Director
Tadeo de la Hoya, Yuma County Director
Desiree Fowler, President, Hispanic-Native Caucus
Lindsay Love, President, Black Alliance
Devin Del Palacio, Chair, NSBA Black Council