

Resolution

Atlanta Board of Education

Atlanta



Georgia

August 3, 2020

**Atlanta Board of Education's Commitment to
Equity and Anti-Racism**

- WHEREAS;** the recent incidents of violence against Black Americans highlight the systemic bias and institutional racism in our society that has senselessly and atrociously devastated Black lives throughout our country's history; **and**
- WHEREAS,** the Atlanta Board of Education is committed to providing each student at every school with the full support and opportunity to fulfill their highest potential; **and**
- WHEREAS,** we are committed to actively interrupting systemic racism and eliminating inequities in our education system; **and**
- WHEREAS,** the Atlanta Board of Education recognizes equity means the quality or ideal of being just and fair, regardless of economic, social, cultural, and human differences among and between persons; **and**
- WHEREAS,** this violence, racism, and disregard of human dignity and life reflect and perpetuate a system within which students, families, and staff of color and their families are oppressed and attacked, both through explicit racist actions as well as unconscious bias and micro-aggressions; **and**
- WHEREAS,** we seek to understand, disrupt, and dismantle patterns and structures of institutional bias (conscious or unconscious) creating disparities and perpetuating achievement gaps among students, and ensure ALL children and families are able to thrive; **and**
- WHEREAS,** education is a key lever for creating this more equitable and anti-racist community, nation, and world; **and**
- WHEREAS,** our district is committed to promoting equity within and across our schools, in conversation and partnership with students, families, staff, and community stakeholders; **and**
- WHEREAS,** in moving from planning to action, the Atlanta Board of Education has adopted an Equity Policy, developed a Strategic Plan and approved the Student Success Formula to provide students with additional and differentiated resources based on their educational needs; **and**
- WHEREAS,** as a school board and district we value each and every student, family, and staff member and are committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist system that honors and elevates all; **and**
- WHEREAS,** we recognize that the experiences and outcomes in our district are not consistent for historically underserved and marginalized groups, including people of color; those experiencing poverty, homelessness, or foster/kinship care; students who identify as LGBTQ+; students receiving special education instruction; and students who are linguistically diverse; **and now therefore be it**
- RESOLVED,** that on this 3rd day of August Two Thousand and Twenty, the Atlanta Board of Education continues to stand in solidarity with the Black Community, in our

schools, district, and nation to condemn this violence and the blatant disrespect by some Americans for Black lives - we see it, we hear it, and we are committed to changing the system; **and therefore be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Board of Education commits to its own work as individuals and our collective work overseeing the district in continuing to become equitable and anti-racist in behaviors, actions, and policies; **and therefore be it finally**

RESOLVED, that the Atlanta Board of Education commits calls on and commits to working with our local governmental agencies to strengthen the collective work of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community. This specifically includes participation on a multi-discipline inter-agency task force by one or more board member representatives.

Jason F. Esteves, Chair
Atlanta Board of Education

Attest

Pierre L. Gaither
Board Executive Director