

Pasadena Unified School District

RESOLUTION 2566

**Pasadena Unified School District's Commitment to
Black Students**

WHEREAS, the Black students and families of Pasadena Unified School District are in need of educational experiences that are culturally responsive to their interests and needs; and

WHEREAS, Black students represent 11.1% of PUSD's student population but continue to be disproportionately overrepresented in disciplinary and special education measures and underrepresented in Advanced Placement, honors and gifted and talented programming; and

WHEREAS, although Black students have the same intellect and potential as non-Black students in PUSD, they still experience the most negative outcomes of any subgroup of students on numerous performance-based measures; and

WHEREAS, due to racial discrimination, the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision has yet to provide equal access and opportunities for Black students in public schools; and

WHEREAS, the racial issues faced by Black people in society mirror the same racial issues faced by Black children in schools in American cities, including Pasadena; and

WHEREAS, recent events of racial bias and systemic racism have galvanized PUSD schools and communities to stand for the protection and preservation of Black lives and against the persecution of children and adults of African descent; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming Black Lives Matter neither diminishes nor devalues the fact that other children's lives matter in PUSD, rather, the statement is a devotion to directly confronting issues that hinder Black excellence in achievement; and

WHEREAS, every PUSD employee assumes unequivocal responsibility for ensuring that all Black students fulfill their potential to achieve academically and socio-emotionally and develop into well-adjusted, well-balanced citizens of society; and

WHEREAS, as employees of the public, it is PUSD's solemn duty to remain steadfast to providing African American children with "a caring, engaging, challenging educational experience for every student, every day in partnership with our families and communities;" and

WHEREAS, the PUSD School Board's commitment to being "the first choice in education for families and students" includes African American families and students; and

WHEREAS, Black student achievement warrants a broad coalition of support from school and community leaders including, but not limited to, the PUSD Board of Education,

Superintendent and PUSD leadership, Pasadena city officials, teachers, administrators and staff, business leaders, faith-based organizations, higher education institutions, and Black parent groups;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District that:

1. The Pasadena Unified School Board wholeheartedly declares that Black students and their families matter;
2. The Pasadena Unified School Board is committed to eradicating any practices, policies, systems, and curriculum that have a biased, discriminatory, racist, or suppressive impact on Black students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District that:

1. The Pasadena Unified School Board deems the progress of Black students as the standard upon which PUSD's commitment to race equity will be measured; and
2. The Pasadena Unified School Board pledges to support the Superintendent's systematic use of talent and resources to increase the number of Black students who perform on or above grade level; and
3. The Pasadena Unified School District will know that it is fulfilling its commitment to Black students when the establishment of measurable academic goals for Black students, align with the district's instructional objectives, are closely monitored for progress and gaps, and conducive to marked and measurable growth in Black student achievement.

ADOPTED this 18th day of June, 2020, by the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education in Los Angeles County, California.

Patrick Cahalan, President

Scott Phelps, Vice President

Elizabeth Pomeroy, Clerk

Kimberly Kenne, Member

Roy Boulghourjian, Member

Michelle Richardson Bailey, Member

Lawrence Torres, Member