

Proclamation

Our District Mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all in a safe and inclusive learning community; “Every student, every day.” To that end, our next steps can’t happen soon enough.

The killings of unarmed black men, women, and youth are impacting our community; and they should. These types of tragedies have been tolerated for far too long, and now they serve as our call to action.

As a district, we are saddened, angered, and frustrated by the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, among others. We recognize these incidents are not isolated, but rather a manifestation of systemic racism experienced by people of color in communities across our country every day. We recognize the enormity of this issue, but as a public school district, we also recognize we are in a unique position to create meaningful change by making a difference in the lives of our youth, our staff, and our community.

Platteville School District is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment to all students, every day. We recognize, however, that racism exists in our community. This is difficult to admit, but as a district we are committed to having uncomfortable discussions about race, racism, and implicit bias. By educating ourselves and pledging a commitment to act when we witness expressions of hate and bias, we will begin to grow and dismantle systematic racism. We cannot promise we will always get it *right*, but we can promise that when mistakes are made, they will be acknowledged, corrected, and we will learn from those situations and commit to doing better in the future.

Directive

Our district is committed to educating ourselves and our community so we can move from our current paradigm of seeing issues of racism and racial injustice as problems for only our students and families of color to one that affects us *all*. This is a local, state, and national problem that we will address with sustainable and purposeful efforts. We will engage in this work transparently and collaboratively and recognize that inclusion is an ongoing process not a destination.

As a district, we vow to

- Review our current policies, student, and staff handbooks and amend language that previously allowed room for discrimination and bias.
- Consult other educational agencies, adopt, and implement policies that ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion among students and staff.
- Develop a restorative plan for students who commit transgressions against these commitments.
- Research and employ a K-12 curriculum that includes not only the history of racism, but the action steps needed to dismantle it in our community and society.
- Provide educational opportunities for the community to learn about systematic racism and injustice and resources for how to facilitate conversations with children.
- Participate as a District, including staff, administrators, and school board members, in ongoing mandatory anti-racism training so we can lead by example.

As a district, we will work earnestly to create deliberate change in our schools; not only to eradicate racism, but also all other systems of inequality and privilege. We implore our families to learn alongside us and reinforce these values in your own homes. Together, we can invoke lasting change.