



# Resolution

## 13. RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN K-12 EDUCATION FOR EACH OHIO STUDENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR RESPECT TO RACE, ETHNICITY, OR CREED

The State Board of Education (the "Board") hereby **ADOPTS** the following Resolution:

Whereas the Ohio Strategic Plan for Education: 2019-2024 Each Child, Our Future, adopted by a resolution of the State Board of Education in June 2018 begins with the vision that in Ohio each child is challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society; and

Whereas, on July 14, 2020, the Board adopted the RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN RACISM AND TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACK STUDENTS, INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF COLOR (the "RESOLUTION"); and

Whereas the Board has since observed not only a growing national divide but a troubling focus on the color of one's skin rather than on the content of one's character; and

Whereas on July 13, 2021, the Board adopted the RESOLUTION TO REQUEST A FORMAL OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OHIO IN REFERENCE TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN RACISM AND TO ADVANCE EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY on "whether the Resolution as adopted conforms with state and federal laws and is within the legal authority of the Board"; and

Whereas on September 14, 2021 Attorney General Dave Yost issued opinion 2021-022, which stated the Board does not have authority to require that all contractors working with the Department of Education take implicit bias training; and

Whereas the State Board seeks excellence in education for all children and families, without prejudice or respect to race, ethnicity, or creed; and

Whereas the Board affirms its concern about the gaps between test performance of Black, Indigenous and people of color students and their White peers, which have existed since Ohio began disaggregating the data; and the Board acknowledges gaps in academic achievement among additional diverse groups, such as economically-disadvantaged students; and

Whereas progress to close these gaps has been uneven and unsatisfactory; and

Whereas the ongoing pandemic has significantly impacted all students and has exacerbated existing gaps in performance between students, which is likely to have devastating effects on their future and on the future of the state;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board emphatically affirms the primary place of academics in Ohio's K-12 public schools; and

Further Resolved, that the Board repeals, effective immediately, the RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN RACISM AND TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BLACK STUDENTS, INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF COLOR; and

Further Resolved, the Board affirms its condemnation of racism, hate speech, hate crimes and violence in the service of hatred; and



# Resolution

## Item 13 continued

Further Resolved, that the Board condemns any standards, curriculum, or training programs for students, teachers, or staff that seek to divide or to ascribe circumstances or qualities, such as collective guilt, moral deficiency, or racial bias, to a whole race or group of people; and

Further Resolved, that with this action the Board expresses its unwavering commitment to excellence in education for all, education that empowers each student to reach his or her full potential as a member of the next great generation of Ohioans; and

Further Resolved, the Board will be guided by our guiding document *Each Child, Our Future* and advocate for it as a framework for developing educational policy and action.

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I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the action taken by the State Board of Education at its meeting on October 13, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie K. Siddens".

Columbus, Ohio  
October 14, 2021

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Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens  
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction