

## **School District of Springfield Township Board Statement on Racism**

As the Board of School Directors, we stand behind and reaffirm our equity statement adopted at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

*Recognizing the diversity of our community, The School District of Springfield Township is committed to and accountable for advancing equity and excellence for all of our students. We, in the School District of Springfield Township, endeavor to provide equitable opportunities for high level, meaningful, and engaging learning experiences for each and every student, regardless of racial/ethnic background, economic condition or other dimension of identity or difference.*

*We recognize that in order to achieve Educational Equity we must apply principles of fairness and justice in the allocation of resources and work toward the elimination of institutional barriers to access and opportunity. We aim to ensure that funding, policies, practices, and initiatives will enable every student to receive what they need to maximize their success. In order to foster growth toward equity, we must engage in continuous reflection and ongoing measurement of our efforts.*

While we do not believe it is our place to issue statements in response to comments made by other elected officials, we do believe that it is important for us to make a strong statement condemning all racism and the cruel actions that have taken the lives of people of color. Regardless of our politics, it is our responsibility as human beings to speak out against discriminatory and racist actions in any form. The events of recent weeks have affected all of us deeply. Emotions are high and people are reactive. Many in our community are in pain, but not necessarily for the same reasons. Racism is a human issue. It is systemic and pervasive and affects our children and our community. Our hearts go out to all who have been affected by these events.

We, as a Board, recognize that Black Lives Matter. We recognize that Black lives are the lives being threatened and black lives are the lives being taken. Racial inequities harm our children. Evidence shows that black students are more likely to be suspended, more likely to be arrested at school and implicit bias toward black children is evident as early as preschool.

Racism runs counter to our district's mission and will not be tolerated in our school or our community.