

SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE ASSETS AND STRENGTHS OF BLACK STUDENTS AND TO SUPPORT AN IMPROVED EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT BETTER SERVES BLACK CHILDREN AND YOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 25-07

WHEREAS, Black students bring extraordinary intellect, talents, creativity, resilience, and diverse cultural contributions that enrich schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, high academic expectations for all students, coupled with culturally affirming, sustaining, and supportive learning environments, are essential for educational equity and success; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Board of Education recognizes the alarming disparities in educational outcomes for Black students as highlighted in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores and the California State Dashboard where only **24.9%** of Black students met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and **13.9%** in Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Black students in Sacramento County face a suspension rate of **14%**, compared to **6%** for all students in the county, highlighting systemic issues that disproportionately impact their educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, Black students have both the lowest graduation rates and the highest absenteeism rates across the districts within Sacramento County which further exacerbates educational inequities and the likelihood of student success; and

WHEREAS, Black students represent only 9.9% of the overall enrollment in Sacramento County yet are over-represented in high-need student groups, including foster youth, homeless students, justice-involved and students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, a landscape analysis completed in 2025 provided critical insights into the barriers and systemic conditions impacting Black student achievement and offered evidence-based recommendations for improving educational equity and access; and

WHEREAS, this Board encourages the implementation of the recommendations of the landscape analysis in order to close the opportunity and learning gaps and improve outcomes for all learners in schools countywide; and

WHEREAS, SCOE schools and programs will implement the recommendations of the landscape analysis report to better serve students and make meaningful shifts in policies, practices, and culture based on evidence-based research and direct input from students and families;

WHEREAS, creating an improved education system that prioritizes equity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness benefits all students and strengthens the broader community; and

WHEREAS, fostering safe and inclusive school environments free from discrimination, harassment, and inequitable disciplinary practices is essential for the well-being and success of Black students and all students; and

WHEREAS, families and caregivers play a vital role in the academic and social development of children, and partnerships between schools, families, and communities are critical partners for fostering positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, centering and elevating the voices of Black students and families in shaping educational policies and practices fosters a more inclusive and responsive education system; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Board of Education will work with school, district and community leaders to prioritize the success of Black students in the following ways:

1. **Acknowledge and Celebrate the Strengths of Black Students**

Recognize the brilliance, creativity, and resilience of Black students and their invaluable contributions to our schools and communities.

2. **Uplift Black Student Leadership**

Intentionally center the perspectives of Black students in shaping educational policies, practices, and initiatives, ensuring their perspectives and needs are integral to building an inclusive and responsive education system.

3. **Support Targeted Interventions**

Support evidence-based interventions tailored to the unique needs of Black students, including community mentorship programs, academic support, and culturally relevant curricula and teaching pedagogy that reflect their experiences and histories, and that will benefit all students.

4. **Ensure Measurable Goals**

Provide support to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and the SCOE schools and programs to establish measurable goals and timelines for improving California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores and

graduation rates and reducing suspension and absenteeism rates for Black students.

5. Engage Educational Partners and Youth

Foster partnerships with community organizations, families, and partners to develop initiatives and interventions aimed at supporting Black students and addressing the specific challenges they face in education. Ensure Black student voices and Black students are centered as problem solvers in devising strategies to address Black student success.

6. Seek Equitable Allocation of Resources

Provide support to LEAs and schools to specifically ensure Black student success by uplifting promising practices, offering guidance to districts, and promoting alignment with strategies that center the needs of Black students, including within LCAP and continuous improvement efforts.

7. Ensure SCOE Leadership and Resource Commitment

SCOE schools will apply the principles outlined in the landscape analysis by developing goals and actionable work plans by the 8th week from the first day of school and that align with existing SCOE initiatives. Actions will be coordinated to ensure effectiveness, sustainability, and meaningful progress toward improved outcomes for Black students.

8. Commit to Continuous Improvement

Provide biannual updates to the Board and community regarding progress made towards goals associated with the implementation of the recommendations in SCOE schools and programs, ensuring transparency and accountability in improving educational opportunities for Black students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Board of Education will identify and advocate for policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels that address the systemic inequities faced by Black students, striving to create a more inclusive and equitable educational system for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sacramento County Board of Education will encourage and promote policy changes within the 13 districts in our county to address systemic inequities faced by Black students and foster a more inclusive and equitable educational system for all.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento County Board of Education at its regular Board meeting on the 15th day of July in 2025 by the following vote:

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| AYES | <u>7</u> | <u>Brown, Caigoy, Corona Sabeniano, Davis, Fong, Keefer, Lefkovitz</u> |
| NOES | <u>0</u> | <u></u> |
| ABSENT | <u>0</u> | <u></u> |
| ABSTAIN | <u>0</u> | <u></u> |

Marianna Corona Sabeniano, Board President

David W. Gordon, Board Secretary