



## COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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### RESOLUTION #161

## REQUESTING ACTIVE EFFORTS TO PREVENT ANTI-ASIAN RACISM AND AGGRESSIONS IN SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, racist rhetoric repeated in society and reflected in the media since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge of hate crimes against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) community both nationwide<sup>1</sup> and particularly in New York City<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Asian-American community, which includes East Asians, South Asians, Pacific Islanders, and others, has experienced an appalling number of incidents of racial shunning, derogatory epithets, discrimination, aggression, and violent attacks with the incidence of AAPI hate crimes increased by 361% between 2020 and the 2021<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, District 30 values the diverse cultures and heritage of the AAPI community, which includes our students, families, and staff, and understands the role educational institutions have in preventing intolerance of all types by teaching children to value diversity and to welcome differences in cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, District 30 schools are home to more than 8,000 students of AAPI heritage, accounting for 21% of student enrollment in the 2020-2021 academic school year<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, all schools in New York City should be committed to providing a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment for all students regardless of race and ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS**, New York City public schools have not adequately acknowledged that the historical bias, including that of the “model minority,” experienced by the AAPI community has caused them to suffer from psychological trauma, feelings of societal invisibility, and serious mental health issues<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, educational institutions play an important role in preventing racism by teaching children tolerance and respect for all cultures; and

**WHEREAS**, AAPI parents have been calling the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) to officially recognize AAPI Heritage Month and to include a comprehensive history of AAPI communities in the curriculum<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-asian-hate-crimes-rose-73-last-year-updated-fbi-data-says-rcna3741>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/nypd-reports-361-percent-increase-anti-asian-hate-crimes-last-year-rcna8427>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thecity.nyc/2022/1/4/22867479/2021-saw-another-surge-of-anti-asian-hate-crimes-in-subway>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/doe-data-at-a-glance>

<sup>5</sup> <https://time.com/5859206/anti-asian-racism-america/>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/19/model-minority-myth-hurts-asian-americans-even-leads-violence/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.cdec26.org/images/Approved\\_Resolution\\_to\\_Prevent\\_Anti-Asian\\_Racism\\_and\\_Bullying\\_in\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.cdec26.org/images/Approved_Resolution_to_Prevent_Anti-Asian_Racism_and_Bullying_in_Schools.pdf)

**WHEREAS**, New York State Senator John Liu, on April 23, 2021, introduced Senate Bill S6359A as a measure to prevent anti-Asian racism, mandating the teaching of children about the contributions of the AAPI community to civil rights movements and in the growth of the USA<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Illinois, on July 9, 2021, passed the TEACH Act, which is the first state law that implements provisions similar to those in Senator Liu's Bill S6359A; and

**WHEREAS**, many anti-racism and anti-bias trainings do not include enough intersectional community input to adequately address discrimination, sexism, ableism, colorism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia, leaving educators without the appropriate language or tools to help affected students nor adequately hold the space to address the increasing hate attacks against the AAPI community.

**THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 30 calls on the New York City Department of Education curriculum to:

1. Proactively and intentionally combat the stereotype of "perpetual foreigners" by including a broad-spectrum of histories, experiences, and narratives of AAPI peoples in the United States (modeled on NYS Senate Bill S6359A) through all aspects of the school curriculum; and
2. Include robust, and diverse AAPI representation in books, images, audio, videos, and other teaching materials; and
3. Train and certify more dual-language educators to enable more profound and nuanced multicultural education and invest in more opportunities for programs in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, etc.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 30 requests that the DOE and District 30 schools foster and engage in proactive communication to create and ensure a strong foundation to help mitigate anti-AAPI and other prejudice in our schools including:

1. Providing regular updates of how the citywide and local school Anti-Bias Committee(s) are addressing AAPI implicit bias within the New York City school system; and
2. Overtly including the AAPI community when discussing bullying, racism, and implicit bias as well as other issues that New York City public school students and families face; and
3. Informing parents about plans to address and prevent racial discrimination and bullying, with clear references to prejudice directed towards the AAPI community, to build a safe learning environment for all children; and
4. Inform parents of plans to help AAPI students respond to implicit bias, bullying, and other threats to their ability to learn at school in a safe environment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 30 calls on the DOE to utilize sensitivity and diversity training to include:

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S6359>

1. Addressing implicit bias against the AAPI community along with other forms of discrimination; and
2. Providing parent workshops that discuss the harmful effects of bias and include discussion of the adverse effects of anti-Asian hate on the student body; and
3. Educating parents and students to recognize bias and bullying, with clear inclusion of the AAPI community along with other historically excluded populations including members of the Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous communities, on how to report incidents of both as an upstander, and what methods of addressing the situation are available that allay fears of retaliation and/or changes to immigration status; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 30 urges the DOE to recognize AAPI cultures by:

1. Officially celebrating AAPI Heritage Month and incorporating it into lesson plans; and
2. Increasing displays of Asian cultures in hallways and classrooms; and
3. Inviting AAPI speakers or performers to school events; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 30 respectfully requests that the new DOE leadership acknowledge and address racism against AAPI students through:

1. Providing support to school leaders in how to address racism against AAPI students and families in their school communities;
2. Reviewing and adjusting reporting systems for bullying to more accurately monitor anti-AAPI bullying;
3. Framing racism against AAPI students in the broader context of racism against underrepresented communities to encourage solidarity, unify students and families, and combat structural racism and various manifestations of white supremacist culture rather than resorting to narratives that erase AAPI students' struggles or pit them against other historically excluded populations.

**VOTED AND APPROVED: April 11, 2022**