

## **The Vancouver Education Association Calls for Racial Justice in Vancouver Public Schools**

The Vancouver Education Association grieves with the nation at the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and [countless others](#). As educators, we understand the ugly and racist history Black Americans and people of color have experienced since the founding of the American Colonies. We recognize that institutional racism is embedded in not only the criminal justice system, but also in public education. Students of color, especially Black students, have historically been pushed through the school to prison pipeline and actively kept from equal access and opportunity. As evidenced in the district's recent notice from the Civil Rights Division of the Washington State Attorney General's office, we engage in discriminatory disciplinary practices which disproportionately exclude students of color from the classroom at higher rates than white students. We join with our community in demanding every institution be held accountable to being actively anti-racist.

The VEA calls on Vancouver Public Schools to dismantle racism in our schools with the following actions:

1. The Vancouver School Board actively seek to appoint a community member who brings diverse perspective and an anti-racist lens to the current Board Director vacancy.
2. The Vancouver School Board pass a resolution to partner with the Vancouver Education Association and other community stakeholders in a joint commitment to dismantle institutionally racist policies and practices in Vancouver Public Schools.
3. Vancouver Public Schools create measurable and accountable goals to change the culture of our schools to be anti-racist and support equity for VPS students from marginalized communities.
4. Vancouver Public Schools commit to transparency and to include students, educators, families, and community organizations in the decision-making process to advance anti-racism and equity.