



June 15, 2020

Dear Education Partner:

Virtual Student Support Circle: Institutional Racism and Implicit Bias (June 18, 2020)

The unrest we saw in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd strengthened our resolve to call on communities to dismantle institutional racism and inequities. The California Department of Education (CDE) intends to lead ongoing initiatives and continue conversations to address implicit bias and racism in public education and in other sectors.

One critical step in this process is supporting the mental health of students across the state who are experiencing trauma from witnessing racial discrimination and police brutality as they process the tragic events and social upheaval sweeping across our country, especially as we are already processing the devastating impacts of a global pandemic. The CDE wants to hear from students and have those conversations about institutional racism and implicit bias. We want students to talk to each other and we respectfully request you to listen and learn.

We encourage you and your students in the middle or high school age range to attend the second **Virtual Student Support Circle** hosted by the California Department of Education (CDE) and me in partnership with the National Equity Project this Thursday, June 18, 2020. It will feature students from across the state speaking about what they have experienced and talk about practical solutions to institutional racism and implicit bias in public schools.

Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020

Time: 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jUa599WWSYCtl7VZ45qt6g
(register in advance) or

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation/>.

Note: Immediately after the event, a video recording of the event will be archived at <https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation/>. It will also be posted on the CDE website and CDE YouTube channel at a later date for future viewing.

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We encourage you to share this information with your respective student clubs, teachers, activities directors, and/or community partners who work directly with students:

Facebook Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/858956481261943/>.

Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation/posts/2969995733038099>.

Twitter post: <https://twitter.com/CADeptEd/status/1272659546989715461>.

Instagram post: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CBeQ6E7oKoX/>.

LinkedIn post: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6678425490400923648>.

These are not “one-and-done” conversations. They must be ongoing to truly make a difference. I encourage you to join the students’ conversation on Thursday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Thurmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and last name "Thurmond" clearly distinguishable.

Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

TT:sr