



April 2, 2021

Dear Broward County Public Schools Community,

As Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), I strongly condemn the recent acts of violence toward Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander communities. Xenophobia, prejudice, racism and violence have no place in our society, nor are they acceptable in our school community.

BCPS is committed to providing safe, supportive, and inclusive learning and working environments for our 260,715 students and 33,022 teachers and staff. The District does not tolerate discrimination in any form.

We live in an increasingly diverse world, interacting with people of various ethnicities, religions, and cultures. As the second largest school district in Florida and the sixth largest school district in the United States, our classrooms reflect the communities where our families live and work. Differences make these communities richer and more vibrant and provide an important backdrop to how we educate our children.

Education is key to understanding the world in which we live. As a school district, we must be intentional and forward-thinking in how we approach cultural awareness. Learning how to talk to one another and educating ourselves about the differences we see around us is how we build community. It is critical for us to have conversations around race relations and cultural differences to lift up and celebrate the diversity that makes our District so special.

I recognize this is a difficult time for our community, especially for our Asian populations. We must take a stand against bias, racism, and cultural insensitivity. We encourage every member of our community to listen to and support one another. Allow this time for lifting and celebrating all voices.

It is especially important that we recognize all voices. Only a few days after the act of hatred in Atlanta, another senseless shooting of ten victims in Colorado reminded us that hatred has no boundaries. I encourage you to remember that love, also, has no boundaries.

For our educators, parents and caregivers, here are links to resources on how to address current events with our students and colleagues:

- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
- [Countering Coronavirus Stigma and Racism: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- [Countering Coronavirus Stigma and Racism: Tips for Teachers and Other Educators](#)
- [After Atlanta: Teaching About Asian American Identity and History](#)
- [Classroom Resources and Tips To Address Anti-Asian Discrimination](#)
- [How to support Asian American colleagues amid the recent wave of anti-Asian violence](#)

Asian Americans have made tremendous contributions and continue to shape the narrative of this country -- from the earliest Asian immigrants who helped build the railroads to the Asian scientists who made significant advancements in cancer detection, to Asian architects who designed some of the nation's most iconic buildings, and critical social justice work in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. [Here is an article on Asian American contributions that need more recognition.](#)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Runcie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent
Broward County Public Schools