



February 24, 2021

Oakland Unified School District Board
1000 Broadway, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94607
Via email: boe@ousd.org

Dear President Gonzales and Oakland Unified School Board Directors:

As not-for-profit legal organizations dedicated to a vision of racially just public schools uplifting the rights and nurturing the full potential of Black and Brown youth in Oakland and beyond, we write to urge you to pass the Reparations for Black Students resolution to commit the District to “to take all steps necessary to eliminate the Black student opportunity gap across all schools by 2025.” (Reso. 2021-0037, p.2.)

The events of this past year--from the pandemic to the George Floyd uprisings to the Capitol insurrection--have only further magnified the truth that we have long known here in Oakland: White supremacy and anti-Black racism infect all aspects of our society, including our public schools, causing harm to Black students and families in the form of biased treatment, disproportionate suspension and discipline, low expectations and diminished opportunities. The District has a moral imperative to disrupt the corrosive impact of these cycles of systemic oppression.

Last year at this time, at one of the last in-person meetings before the pandemic struck, we stood in solidarity with the Black Organizing Project in a standing-room only crowd to urge you to pass the resolution to eliminate school police. We applaud the District for having taken action last summer to reimagine school safety and culture with the passage of the George Floyd Resolution and support its continued implementation. Now is the time for OUSD to continue moving forward, not backward, on its journey towards becoming a Black Sanctuary district. Black students deserve not just safety. Black students deserve to thrive.

We urge you to pass the Black Student Reparations Resolution to commit the District to a multi-year plan to eliminate the Black student opportunity gap at every school and ensure outcomes for Black students are prioritized in district decisions. Through the creation of a Black Student and Families Thriving Task Force and development of Black Student Thriving Indicators to be incorporated in district planning, you can ensure OUSD provides the support and accountability to Black students and families necessary to realize its vision of racially just community schools.

As members of the OUSD Board, we urge you to begin to repair the decades of harm and disinvestment inflicted upon Oakland's Black communities by voting with your values and conscience to pass the Reparations for Black Students Resolution.

Sincerely,



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