



June 4, 2020

The Virginia School Counselor Association Leadership Team strongly condemns acts of violence, racism, and injustice, including the continued killing of Black people by the police. We call for justice and reform from leaders and citizens at all levels of our society to address the systemic and insidious manifestations of racism and discrimination.

We are heartbroken and angered by the recent string of murders including George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor, which tragically fall on a backdrop of countless historical incidents. We mourn these losses and offer our sincere condolences to their families and loved ones. We see the collective and widespread trauma, fear, anger, and grief facing our country, and commit to confronting all forms of injustice. To our school counselors of color: we see you, we hear you, we care about you, we value you, and we stand with you.

Moving forward:

1. VSCA is committed to examining our current system to ensure we actively work to dismantle destructive systemic inequities of racism;
2. VSCA is committed to advocating for changes to educational structures, systems, and policies that have historically marginalized and oppressed groups resulting in injustice, bias, and institutional racism;
3. VSCA is committed to providing professional development and holding frank conversations to assist school counselors in recognizing and understanding the impact of racism and white privilege in our schools and society; and
4. VSCA is committed to evaluating our organization's current practices and continually striving to be better, do better, and grow together.

VSCA expects school counselors to uphold our ethical code by advocating and leading efforts for sustainable change, including being an accomplice to anti-racism. As such, we will look inward to examine our own perspectives as well as our implicit and explicit biases in an effort to strive for continued growth. We will listen and hold space for our colleagues, students, staff, and families of color. We will collaborate with school leaders and stakeholders to examine and

dismantle the existing racism, inequities, and access gaps in our schools and districts. And, we will work together for a more just and inclusive society.

In solidarity,

Emily Goodman-Scott

Julia V. Taylor

Jentae Scott-Mayo

Lauren Kershner

Erin Hurley

Karla Allen

Tori Stone

Robert B. Jamison

Marsha Rutledge

Brett Welch

Jenny Hubler

Paige Abasolo

Liz Parker

Lauren White

Tamarah Stanley