

Model School Board Resolution Template: Guidance for Engaging Communities

Public school communities call on school boards to engage educators, students, and parents to support nurturing learning and teaching environments; to show respect for educators as trained professionals; and to ensure that all students can thrive regardless of their ZIP Code, color or background. School boards have a distinct role to ensure truth, equity, and diversity of viewpoint in our public schools. The guide below can spark collaboration with your school board and school community on policies that ensure opportunity for all students.

- 1) Make a copy of this document and adapt it for your school district.
 - a. **Fill in the {district- and state-specific} fields in this template.** The resolution should name your District and identify the state board and curriculum standards.
 - b. **Identify relevant anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-bullying policies** that might already exist in your District; this resolution can lift them up.
 - c. **Include district, state or even national demographic data** to reinforce the urgency of inclusive, culturally-responsive curricula and teaching in our schools.
 - d. **Take what you need from this model, and add what is missing:** This resolution should address the customized needs and capabilities of your district.
 - e. **Consider alternative phrasing:** Certain words or phrases in the model language can be modified to help support your message.

- 2) Think about the following questions before you begin:
 - a. **What policies does the school district already have in place?** Use words like “reaffirm” for policies that already exist and point to them.
 - b. **Is the district already investing time and resources into anti-racist work**, such as staff recruitment, professional development, or culturally-responsive curriculum? If not, can it? Be ready to name those things.
 - c. **What policies are you planning to change or introduce?** Describe your intentions for changing or creating new policies.
 - d. **What community or district can you use as a model?** Review examples of how others have successfully engaged with their communities to find models your resolution. If you use an example heavily, cite it at the end by saying “portions were modified from [name of resolution and link].”

- 3) What is your strategy for community and school board engagement?
 - a. **What is happening in your community?** Understand how the environment, and the conversations happening, could influence your strategy.
 - b. **What is your strategy to engage your Board and community around this work?** Check out the Tips for Working in School Boards available at [NEA EdJustice on School Board Activism](#).
 - c. **How will Board members lead conversations in the community** -- through town halls, forums, personal outreach? Boards should be specific as possible with what you intend to do to foster deep and broad engagement.

- 4) Resources: Where can I go for more information on this issue?
 - a. [NEA's Honesty in Education resource page](#) and [NEA's Know Your Rights page](#)
 - b. [African American Policy Forum #TruthBeTold Campaign](#)
 - c. [Partnership for the Future of Learning's messaging guide: Truth in Our Classrooms Bridges Divides](#)
 - d. [The Leadership Conference's Toolkit for Local Advocates: Teaching Diverse and Inclusive Curricula Materials and Defending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)