

Our Commitment to the Society Our Children Deserve

Schools are a vital part of the greater community, and can be key toward building harmonious relationships in children that will penetrate society. That is our hope. That is not what we see from parts of society right now. Violence toward African American boys and girls, men and women, is a scourge that plagues our nation. Communities of color are threatened today as they have been throughout our nation's history.

School needs to be the safe place within the community our children can count on. As we are moving through a pandemic situation and facing a return to schools, we must be mindful of the communities we will create to which our students will return. We are doing everything in our power to protect the physical health of the school community, but are also mindful of the emotional toll our students have encountered over the past months, just from the school closure alone. What can we commit to do to enhance ourselves and our communities of adults in the school setting to be ready for our students on day 1 of their return and every day thereafter?

- We commit to continued professional development about social-emotional learning for adults and children alike.
- We commit to examining implicit bias and taking active steps to reducing these biases.
- We commit to examining persistent racial gaps in educational attainment in our systems.
- We commit to using data to explore and eradicate disproportionality in student discipline.
- We commit to providing equity in education and examining equity gaps a part of our strategic plans for success.

Improving society needs to start with those of us who take on the profession of making society better, one child at a time. As the leaders of Phoenix's amazing and diverse public schools, we strive to welcome our students and our community back to places committed to creating a better world.

The beauty of the American public school is a commitment to educating all who enter our doors. Those of us who are privileged to work in public schools have a duty to our youngest citizens who do not as yet have a voice in our democracy. We must be a voice for them, while guiding them to find their voice they will use in the world. We also have a duty to hone our voices to speak the language of social justice, so that is the product that enters society when our students leave our schools and enter college or their career.

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