

Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association



June 5, 2020

**The Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association statement on recent events and racism in our country.**

The killing of George Floyd is the latest in the list of deaths and assaults that have impacted Americans who are black in our country. The peaceful demonstrations of the past several days have to some extent been overshadowed by violence that has occurred at some of the protest gatherings.

Clearly no one wants to see violence, injury, death or destruction of property. However, we cannot overlook the frustration that Americans who are Black feel after years of persecution, discrimination and racism. It is the right of every American to publicly have their voices heard and now is the time for all of us to listen and lead. It is encouraging to see the diversity among protestors in the cities and towns across the United States and of course here in our state.

The diversity in R.I. is one of our state's greatest strengths and we need to build upon this strength to ensure that all are treated justly, fairly and without discrimination.

RISSA must speak out against racism and discrimination. RI superintendents are committed to ensuring equity, and to have this commitment at the core of the work that we do every day in schools across RI. Equity is central to the work of superintendents and the school systems they lead.

RISSA remains committed to equity, to recruit, employ and to prepare and support educational leaders who value equity, and to eliminating systemic racism and discrimination.

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