

A Message of Support

For Asian, Asian American & Pacific Islander Communities

March 18, 2021

Dear Centennial Colleagues and Community,

I'm writing today in solidarity and deep sorrow with Asian and Asian American communities, as well as the many individuals across the nation in mourning due to the racist killings in Atlanta in which six Asian women were murdered.

These tragic, hateful acts have been a consistent reality, negatively impacting our lives in overt and covert ways. Between March 2020 and February of this year, 3,795 reports of anti-Asian discrimination were reported to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a database that was created at the beginning of the pandemic in response to the increased racial violence.

In Centennial School District we strongly condemn all acts of violence and will not tolerate acts of hate and racial injustice. We stand with our students, families and community, specifically our Asian and Pacific Islander, Asian American and any student experiencing harm due to this senseless tragedy.

As a district, we continue to devote ourselves to the work of racial justice focused on moving towards a brighter future. In our schools, All Students Belong (attached).

Dr. Paul E. Coakley, Superintendent

Resources:

CSD Board's Commitment to Eliminating Institutional Racism: <https://www.csd28j.org/domain/421>

[Stop AAPI Hate](#) is a national resource for reporting hate incidents. Locally, you can report hate incidents at the [Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes](#).

Here are some [resources](#) that the BSD Asian/Asian-American Affinity group and T&L have put together to help in responding to incidents in our community and some helpful resources for doing community circle check-ins. The group also offers the resources below to share with your students and families:

- [Project Lotus: Local Asian-American Student-led Program](#)

Project Lotus destigmatizes mental health issues in Asian-American communities by tackling the model minority stereotype through culturally-relevant education for the community and the empowerment of voices. Project Lotus advances the movement for Asian-Americans to be able to discuss, care for and advocate for mental health freely, without shame or stigma.

- [Lines for Life: Racial Equity Support Line](#)

Whether in small acts or violent ones, racial bias can have serious emotional impacts. Racism changes how we see the world around us. It's stressful to worry about how people see us as different or dangerous. It's exhausting to notice the ways that people treat us as less-than, day in and day out. It's heartbreaking to turn on the news and learn about more violence against people who look like us. The Equity Line is answered by BIPOC counselors, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- [Asian Health and Service Center](#)

AHSC provides a safe and culturally sensitive place for Asians who seek mental health care. It's a culturally competent and linguistically appropriate service that is offered in Cantonese, English, Korean, Mandarin and Vietnamese. All staff members of the mental health program are multilingual and multicultural professionals who have extensive experience in the field. AHSC accepts Oregon Health Plan.



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