An Open Letter to School Leaders on the Call for Change in America

Dear School Leaders:

The Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership (VFEL) along with our Virginia Student Councils Association (VSCA) and the Virginia Association of Honor Societies (VAHS) are mission and membership-driven organizations dedicated to supporting leadership learning and transforming public education in the Commonwealth. As student and educational leadership organizations, it is important that we – VASSP, VFEL, VSCA, and VAHS – stand in solidarity with all individuals and organizations who are working to put an end to systemic racism and the inequities that many Black Students and Families face each day. We affirm and echo the sentiment of our State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James Lane, “The death of George Floyd and too many other Black Americans reminds us how much work we have to do.”

We owe it to our learning communities and the members we serve to take a clear stance against indifference and injustices toward Black Americans, and we condemn all acts of intolerance and violence toward others. VASSP, VFEL, VSCA, and VAHS are grateful for the leadership of our State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and we pledge to be part of the work ahead and to continue our efforts in supporting educational policies and practices that lead to equitable outcomes and a better tomorrow for the students and learning communities we serve.

* [@DrJamesLane. (2020, June). Retrieved from https://twitter.com/DrJamesLane/status/1267785675564363776. "Eradicating systemic racism from schools & communities is the hardest work of our time, work I am committed to through listening, learning & standing w/ others against injustice. The death of George Floyd & too many other Black Americans reminds us how much more work we have to do."

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