



During this bitter time, we urge all PDK members to join with their colleagues, friends, families, and students in expressing outrage over the brutality that has been leveled at African Americans, not just in recent weeks but since the founding of this nation. George Floyd is just the latest addition to a long list of Black victims of racist violence. However, outrage isn't enough.

As educators, we must do more, finding concrete ways to promote social justice and equity in our classrooms, schools, and communities. We have a responsibility to educate ourselves about the complex and often shameful history of public education in the United States. While our schools have served as great engines of opportunity, they have also served to deny and exclude. For generations, and like so many of our other public institutions, our schools have practiced both subtle and not-so-subtle forms of bigotry, providing separate and unequal instruction to children from differing backgrounds.

This means that as educators, we must also recognize the limitations of our own knowledge and experience. Those of us who are White and middle class, especially, must be willing to admit how much we don't know about the lived experiences of our students and colleagues of color, those who come from working-class backgrounds, or those who have immigrated to this country. In order to move forward, we must push ourselves also to look back to our past practices, and we must look to the people at our sides, who may have very different knowledge and experiences from our own.

As PDK members, we are at our best when we help each other to become better teachers, leaders, and scholars. We don't know what that will look like in the coming days and weeks, but as an association, we're committed to engaging with all of you to learn how we can be most helpful as we all work to confront the racism in and outside of our schools.

[Visit our Racial Justice Resources page](#) for articles on school segregation past and present, on how racial stress affects Black students, and on how to have productive conversations with kids about race and other controversial subjects. We also encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#), where we will continue to elevate the work of leading Black educators.

We hope you find these tools useful, and we will continue to do our best to support you in engaging in thoughtful, meaningful, and actionable conversation moving forward.

PDK International

About PDK International

Established in 1906, PDK International supports P-20 educators, researchers, and intersection of research and practice

At PDK, we strive to embrace the complexities of public education, be intellectually honest, and ask the right questions. And through our core values of social justice, engagement, excellence and results, we encourage educators and stakeholders to elevate the discourse and change the narrative around teaching & learning to ensure that every student has a high-quality equitable education.