

A Message from the ARRSD Equity Team

We continue to stand against racism and violent acts against others that hurt us all.

It is with a heavy heart that we come together regarding the horrific event last Tuesday in Atlanta where eight people lost their lives in a violent mass shooting. We grieve for the victims and their families, and offer our sincere condolences at the same time as we hope for healing for the community. These murders follow a year in which the American Asian Pacific Islander community has been wrongly shunned, assaulted, and blamed for the Coronavirus. In times like these, we are at a loss for words.

Nonetheless, words and actions are a necessary response. We condemn such acts and commit to doing everything we can to halt the growth of hate at its roots.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to continue professional learning opportunities alongside conversations that promote inclusivity, honor each person's voice, and respect lived experiences different from our own. We are dedicated to a school district that promotes equity and opportunity for all.

Some may wonder why a statement is needed when our schools are so far from Atlanta, but when we are silent, it can contribute to systems that allow hate. We strive to encourage our students to become people who know differently and do better. This statement models what we teach our students--to speak up and take action against injustice and to care about the well-being of others in our community.

Some resources for building awareness:

Children's Books with an Asian lens

<https://coloursofus.com/30-asian-asian-american-childrens-books/>

Young Adult books with an Asian lens

<https://readingmiddlegrade.com/asian-ya-novels/>

Sesame Street In Communities, has lessons, videos, and activities on all kinds of SEL topics, including this one on helping your child cope with violence in the world, or the community. This video can be watched by parents/guardians, and features Alan Muraoka, an Asian American Actor on Sesame Street, and the Muppet Rosita:

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/violence/>

Resources suggested by the Massachusetts School Administrators Association/
Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

Information & Guidance

- [CDC Guidance for Reducing Stigma of COVID-19](#)
- [Joint Statement from ADL and Committee of 100 on the Rise of Anti-Asian Xenophobia and Hate](#)

Talking with Young Children

- [Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#) (NPR)
- [Addressing Anti-Asian Racism with Students](#) (Smithsonian Asian American Center)
- [How to Teach Kids about Taboo Topics](#) (TED Talk)
- [Let's Talk: Supporting Asian and Asian American Students through COVID-19](#) (MGH Institute)
- [Talking to Kids about Asian American Identity & Racism](#) (Immigrant History Initiative)

Responding to Racism

- [How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism](#) (Teaching Tolerance/Learning for Justice)
- [Addressing Anti-Asian Bias](#) (Teaching Tolerance/Learning for Justice)
- [Show Up: Guide to Bystander Intervention](#) (Center for Urban Pedagogy)
- [COVID-19 Resources to Stand Against Racism](#) (Asian Americans Advancing Justice)

For Members of the AAPI Community

- [Self-Care Tips for Asian-Americans Dealing with Racism amid Coronavirus](#) (Huffington Post)
- [Anti-Asian Racism Resources](#) (Harvard University Health Services)
- [Anti-Racism Resources for the AAPI Community](#) (Cornell University)

For Allies of the AAPI Community

- [Protecting & Supporting AAPI Workers during COVID-19](#) (Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance)
- [Anti-Racism Resources to Support Asian American, Pacific Islander Community](#) (NBC)
- [Confronting Racism & Supporting Asian American Communities in the Wake of COVID-19](#) (Urban Institute)

NASP

- [How to Speak with Children about Violence](#)

William James College

- [Guidance for Parents of Asian-American Adolescents](#)