UNITING OUR MEMBERS AND THE NATION

Empowering leaders, educating students, strengthening communities

Making Black Lives Matter in Schools
Erika Jones and Cecily Myart-Cruz
Indicate the NEA Strategic Goal and NEA Organizational Priority your session addresses:

• NEA Strategic Goal
  – Strategic Goal 2: Empowered Educators for Successful Students

• NEA Organizational Priority
  – Institutional Racism/Racial Justice in Education
NEA Leadership Competency your session addresses:

• **NEA Leadership Competency progression level(s).**
  – Level 1: Foundational, Level 2: Mobilizing & Power Building, and Level 3: Agenda Driving

• **NEA Leadership Competency themes**
  – Engages community around issues supporting student learning
  – Interprets and acts on social justice initiatives
  – Acts as political advocate
Objectives

• Gain understanding of the Black Lives Matter Movement
• Analyze the role of labor in the movement
• Learn ways to bring racial justice work to your local
Norms

Step up
Step back

THROW GLITTER NOT SHADE
Turner’s rebellion was the largest slave revolt in U.S. history and led to a new wave of oppressive legislation prohibiting the movement, assembly, and education of slaves.

The murders of Emmit Till and Trayvon Martin drew sympathy and disbelief across racial lines, and, through the popular media, prompted a reexamination of race relations.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?
More Than a #... Black Lives Matter
The Movement for Black Lives

A VISION FOR BLACK LIVES
POLICY DEMANDS FOR BLACK POWER, FREEDOM & JUSTICE
An End to the Privatization of Education and Real Community Control by Parents, Students and Community Members of Schools Including Democratic School Boards and Community Control of Curriculum, Hiring/Firing, and Discipline Policies

Source: https://policy.m4bl.org/community-control/
Environment

School and community environments greatly influence students.
Community Environment

What are students exposed to outside of school?
School Environment

What are students exposed to in school?

- Curriculum
- Relationships
- Discipline
- Role Models
Table talk activity

• Reflect on your school environment, from curriculum to discipline policies, resources, peer relationships, student relations with school staff etc.

• What are you doing now to positively influence the lives of black students? What can be improved to support black lives?
Statistics on Black Girls in school – Discipline

I was sent home because of how my hair looks.
As an educator, what is your role in the School to Prison Pipeline?

Table Talk and Share Out
Advocacy
How do we stand up and show out
Don’t just tell a different version of the same story. Change The Story!

EQUALITY  EQUITY  LIBERATION
What is your role as a union activist in supporting the movement for black lives?
Taking a stand or taking a knee

Consequences of Advocacy
Creating Racial Justice Committee

• Student centered
• Makes racial justice a priority for the local
• Method to partner with community organizations
• Method to sponsor school board motions and local legislation
• Provides new ways for members who are active outside of the union to get involved in union work
• Provides an avenue for students and parents
Clips from Making Black Lives Matter in School Forum
What is a Community School?

- A Community School is at the center of the community – open **all day, every day, to everyone** – that brings together academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement under one roof, leading to **improved** learning, stronger families, and healthier communities.
THE SCHOOLS OUR CHILDREN DESERVE
UNITING TO WIN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Critical elements of sustainable community schools

• Curriculum that is engaging, culturally relevant and challenging.

• High quality teaching, not high stakes testing

• Wrap-around supports

• Positive discipline practices

• Transformational parent and community engagement
The Rose that Grew from Concrete

Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's law is wrong it learned to walk with out having feet. Funny it seems, but by keeping it's dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

Tupac Shakur
Session Outcomes

• The content from this session can be used in the following ways in your current position/role:
  – Beginning conversations about our role in the school to prison pipeline
  – Creating a Racial Justice Work Group in your local
  – Creating partnerships with Black Lives Matter Chapters
  – Understanding the movement for Black Lives and how that can shape your activism
Thank You!

• Please complete the evaluation for this breakout session by using the **NEA Summit Mobile APP**! – *Please remember to build in 5 minutes at the end of your session to allow time for the attendees to complete the evaluation for your session.*

• Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at [www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment](http://www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment)