Unite, Inspire, Lead
Our Students, Our Union, Our Future

Making Black Lives Matter in Schools
Presented by: 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
Indicate the NEA Leadership Competency your session addresses: Example – COMPETENCY: BUSINESS

• 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
Introductions

• Erika Jones
• Cecily Myart-Cruz
History of Black Lives
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?

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School Environment

Discipline

Curriculum

Role Models

Relationships

What are students exposed to in school?
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
Advocacy

• How do we as educators advocate for our students and the communities we serve?
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?
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 to get involved

Educate – Activate – Partner - Advocate
Clips from Making Black Lives Matter in School Forum
Next Steps

• Building Community Schools
Critical elements of sustainable community schools

- **Curriculum that is engaging, culturally relevant and challenging.** It includes a broad selection of classes and after-school programs in the arts, languages, and ethnic studies, as well as AP and honors courses, services for English Language Learners, special education, GED preparation and job training.

- **High quality teaching, not high stakes testing, is emphasized.** Appropriate assessments are used to help teachers meet the needs of students, and educators have a real voice in professional development.
• **Wrap-around supports** such as health care, eye care and social and emotional services are offered to assist learning. They are available before, during and after school and are provided year-round to the full community. Providers are accountable and culturally competent.

• **Positive discipline practices** such as restorative justice and social and emotional learning supports are stressed so students grow and contribute to the school community and beyond. Suspensions and harsh punishments are eliminated or greatly reduced.

• **Transformational parent and community engagement** is promoted so the full community actively participates in planning and decision-making. This process recognizes the link between the success of the school and the development of the community as a whole.
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!

• Please visit the Leadership Development Resources website at www.nea.org/leadershipdevelopment