

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charles County NAACP Expresses Grave Concerns Over Racial Incidents in Charles County Public Schools

(Waldorf, MD, March 8, 2024)

The Charles County Chapter of the NAACP (CCNAACP) is issuing this press release to express our profound disappointment and concern over several racially charged incidents that have been reported within the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) over the last two years. Despite repeated assurances and multiple meetings with the Charles County School Board administrators, our calls for significant policy reforms and the inclusion of explicit language in the employee handbook to address and prevent racism and discrimination have been met with inaction.

It is disheartening to note that the CCPS employee handbook lacks the necessary language that would not only address instances of racism and discrimination but would also ensure the termination of any teacher, principal, or administrator found to have engaged in such reprehensible behaviors. The absence of such critical guidelines within the school system's policy documents is not only alarming but also indicates a gross negligence in protecting our students from racially motivated harm and discrimination.

The Charles County NAACP has patiently engaged with the Charles County School Board, hoping for a commitment to rectify these glaring policy oversights. However, despite being promised action, we find ourselves yet to witness any meaningful steps towards reform. This lack of action speaks volumes, highlighting a concerning indifference to fostering an educational environment where all students can learn free from racial prejudice and discrimination.

Such inaction is unacceptable and betrays the trust of students, parents, and the community at large. It sends a dangerous message that racial discrimination and the safety of our children are not of paramount importance to those in positions of educational leadership within Charles County.

Therefore, we urgently call upon the Charles County School Board to take immediate and decisive action by:

1. Revising the CCPS employee handbook to include explicit language that directly addresses instances of racism and discrimination.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. You can read more about the NAACP's work and our six "Game Changer" issue areas by visiting [NAACP.org](https://www.naacp.org).

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Charles County Branch

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2. Implementing clear policies that result in the immediate termination of any staff member found to have participated in racial or discriminatory behavior.
3. Establishing a transparent and accessible system for reporting and addressing incidents of racism and discrimination within schools.

The CCNAACP stands ready to work collaboratively with the Charles County School Board to usher in these critical changes. However, let it be known that we will not stand idly by while our children face an educational environment that does not prioritize their dignity, safety, and rights to an equal education. We demand action, accountability, and a commitment to racial justice within Charles County Public Schools, without further delay.

The time for change is now. Our community deserves no less.

Per CCNAACP President Dyotha Sweat, “To quote Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ The time has come for the Charles County Public School system to deliver on its promises to provide an educational environment free from the scourge of racism and discrimination for all students.”

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