

RSU 54/MSAD 54

June 3, 2020

Public Statement regarding Racism, Hate, Tolerance and Acceptance

All members of our MSAD 54 community, staff, students, etc., must come to school feeling safe, welcomed, and respected for who they are. This belief has been front and center in our work in schools over the past several years and will remain a focus into the future.

Recent events across our country, including the horrible and tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the resulting protests, have again brought to light the bias and racism that exists in our society. Schools must be places where we can openly talk about our history, about bias (implicit and explicit), and about the important strength and power of diversity. We in MSAD 54 have worked to educate and move beyond “tolerance”. We have worked to create a culture of acceptance in our schools through activities and ongoing efforts over the past many years; these tragedies are a stark reminder of the importance of our work.

Over the past several years we have responded to [incidents of hate](#) in our community, we’ve worked to take a [strong stance around acceptance in our schools](#), and have [developed programs](#) to ensure this work is ongoing. MSAD 54’s Civil Rights Teams created a web page early on in the pandemic to provide resources to students while at home. We were told that we were one of the first districts in the state to include Civil Rights as part of our distance learning plans. The team’s site will be updated over the next few days to include resources around the issue of race and racism and what we each can do to help bring about a culture of acceptance in our society. This effort will again be a focus of our work in schools when we return in the fall. We encourage you to visit the distance learning site and scroll down to the Civil Rights Team Project page: <http://bit.ly/msad54>