

June 29, 2020

**CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON
DISCRIMINATION**

*Superintendent Jesus F. Jara and the Board of School Trustees will not tolerate
aggression, violence and discrimination of any kind*

As Superintendent of the fifth largest school district in this country, responsible for educating nearly 320,000 students representing a rich and diverse ethnic tapestry, I adamantly oppose discrimination of any kind. The marginalization and repression of people of color has been a long-standing issue in this country. In recent weeks, our nation's tumultuous past, and the lasting effects of racism, have once again surfaced in our American story. As a Latino man with a role that requires a high level of responsibility and the public's trust, I want to make it clear that we will respect the rights of every child being educated by this District.

Our students' dreams, aspirations and future come first – period. And, the Clark County School District (CCSD) has a zero-tolerance policy regarding discrimination. The Clark County School District Police Department (CCSDPD) provides services to the District 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the 365 days of the year with a clear understanding that each of our students deserve respect, courtesy and due process. The majority of children in this district are among the most under-served, struggling with issues of homelessness, food insecurity, domestic violence and other harsh realities. We will not do them an even greater disservice by allowing them to face additional difficulty while interacting with District law enforcement.

While all referrals District-wide to the Department of Juvenile Justice Services have decreased overall by 28% for the previous three years, for Black students, the decrease was only 22%. At present, we are taking a close look at why that happened so that we can work to address the underlying cause. We are here to educate the children of Clark County, not prepare them for the prison pipeline. Many of those behind prison walls today, across this nation, were failed during their K-12 experience. If a caring adult tried to find out why they'd gotten off track and started acting out, why they'd started missing so many days of instruction, or why they continuously failed to turn in homework assignments, their course may have taken a different turn. We will not stand for it in

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Clark County. We are working diligently to address issues of school safety, while keeping the well-being of our students and their academic success as our primary focus. Education is the key to a better life and we will do all that we can to protect that right for our children.

While we have worked with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) to address matters involving juvenile crime and gang activity, to name a few, CCSDPD is an independent entity serving the CCSD community. Its partnerships with other law enforcement agencies help to enhance the level of service provided to all. Those partnerships are in no way intended to strengthen the arm of the law against our community, but only to assist in keeping our community safe. Additionally, as members of the School Justice Partnership, CCSDPD works diligently to find alternatives to citations and responses to minor incidents for students. This is an important step in our efforts to focus on restorative justice and our efforts to eliminate the school to prison pipeline for our black and brown students. Our partnership with the Harbor has already delivered on its promise, lowering recidivism for students. The Harbor provides a safe place for guidance and responds to the well-being of young people through a partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the District Attorney's Office and CCSDPD.

I, along with the CCSD Board of School Trustees, am committed to ensuring equal treatment for anyone who interacts with the CCSDPD. Our officers must adhere to the strict procedures we have adopted to ensure that all police activities are conducted with the highest level of integrity in accordance with federal, state and local laws.

Our officers understand that while they are tasked with keeping our schools and community safe, they are helping our children on the path to a better future. Our commitment to equity and inclusion stands firm.

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