

## **BLM Week of Action in Schools FAQs for Parents**

Adapted from FAQ's for BLMPHLed Week of Action

### **What is the Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools?**

Black Lives Matter Week of Action at Schools is a nation-wide group of people organizing for racial justice in education.

### **What is the connection between the Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools and the Black Lives Matter movement?**

In 2016 The Black Lives Matter Global Network developed 13 guiding principles, which are now the framework for Black Lives Matter at School.

### **Who started the Black Lives Matter movement and why?**

Black Lives Matter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer by Patrisse Cullers, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza. Its mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities.

### **What will my child be learning?**

Students will be learning about the thirteen guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

### **What are the thirteen principles?**

Unapologetically Black, Diversity, Empathy, Loving Engagement, Restorative Justice, Black Families, Intergenerational, Black Villages, Black Women, Queer Affirming, Transgender Affirming, Globalism, Collective Value

### **How do these thirteen principles apply to my life? How do they apply to all students?**

The thirteen principles provide the framebook for a more fair society. They can create the conditions for improving relationships between people of different races.

### **Does the School District of Philadelphia support Black Live Matter Week of Action in Schools?**

Yes, and so do both national teacher unions. Also, the School District of Philadelphia now has an Equity Commission. Philadelphia City Council wrote and passed the Black Lives Matter Week of Action resolution in 2019 and 2020

### **Is this age-appropriate for elementary students?**

Yes. Issues of equity and fairness are important in all aspects of each of our lives, and in each of our classrooms. Teachers make sure that lessons and materials are appropriate for each grade.

### **Why is this even important right now?**

Black Lives Matter is currently in the news. It is an important current events topic. When we talk about issues of racial justice and fairness, we affirm the identities of all our students. Also, it is important to encourage engagement with the world, regardless of our perspectives on the issues.

Updated February 25, 2021

## **BLM Week of Action in Schools FAQs for Parents**

Adapted from FAQ's for BLMPHLed Week of Action

### **Isn't it enough to tell children to be kind to everyone? Don't All Lives Matter?**

Every human being is important. However, Black Lives Matter Week of Action at School is not only about respect and kindness. This is about studying issues of privilege with students, which will help them understand their own identities and how that shapes our society. Relying on colorblind rhetoric around kindness and tolerance only perpetuates the issues at hand and does nothing to challenge structural racism and white supremacy.

### **What is the problem with White Supremacy, and what does it even mean?**

White supremacy is the belief that white people are superior and should dominate other racial and ethnic groups. White supremacy is upheld in economic, legal, and educational systems and disadvantages people of color. Fighting against white supremacy is essential for creating a fair society.

### **My family came to this country and experienced prejudice. Shouldn't my children learn about our home country and people?**

The Racial Justice Organizing Committee advocates for Ethnic, Indigenous, and Black studies courses at every grade level.

### **Isn't Black Lives Matter racist against white people?**

Black Lives Matter helps us to study the quality of life for marginalized groups in our society--who happen to make up the majority of our Philadelphia students. These conversations strengthen our community.

### **Isn't Black History Month enough?**

It is not enough to isolate and restrict discussion of the history and contributions of African Americans to one school month. Additionally, the traditional approach of learning about African American heroes does not do enough to address issues of justice or the complexity of Black communities.

### **Where can I find our more?**

You can always talk to your child's teacher.

Also, the Racial Justice Organizing Committee is a founding organizer of Black Lives Matter Week of Action in School and has compiled information for families, educators, and community members:

<https://sites.google.com/view/racialjusticeorganizing/blm-week-of-action-in-schools/demands?authuser=0>