



**MACSA**  
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

June 5, 2020

On May 25th, we witnessed yet another tragic killing of an unarmed Black man in Minneapolis. The racially motivated murder of innocent black people is not an isolated incident, but historical habit. The Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA) would like to extend our deepest condolences to George Floyd's family. Our hearts go out to and remain with his family and immediate community; and our solidarity is and will be with the community at large.

While property loss is a setback, all authorizers are clear that the continued loss of Black life in this fashion is unacceptable and must stop. We have seen this for far too long: police enact unjust violence against communities of color, the community demands justice; justice is not done; the community expresses its discontentment; and the cycle repeats. This time has to be different.

The injustice exposed in this tragedy reveals and reflects the injustice that exists at nearly every level in our society—including education. Governor Walz stated that “Minnesota consistently ranks highly for our public schools, innovation and opportunity, and happiness – if you’re white. If you’re not, the opposite is true. Systemic racism must be addressed if we are to secure justice, peace, and order for all Minnesotans.”

We mourn with our communities and stand committed to a continued partnership with our schools to address the racial gap in education. We are committed to uplifting the voices of our students, families, teachers, and school leaders, and to partnering in the work to dismantle systems of oppression.

MACSA stands committed to dismantling racism within its sphere of influence: education. We will work with the charter schools we authorize to continue to disrupt inequity and actively address systemic racism. That said, we must also examine our own biases and commit to authorizing based on anti-racist practices that impact new school decisions, transfer decisions, and reauthorization decisions. We will review and update MACSA's Principles and Standards to reflect our ongoing commitment to move from being “not racist” to “anti-racist.”

MACSA understands that dismantling systems of oppression will take time and, as a board, we are committed to that work.

Sincerely,  
Larry McKenzie

Chair, MACSA

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Director, MACSA