



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
Las Vegas Branch 1111**

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June 21, 2018

Legislative Committee on Education
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4747

RE: Access to Equity in Education for African Americans in Nevada

Dear Legislative Committee on Education,

I am writing to share the NAACP Las Vegas Branch #1111's support of the Clark County Black Caucus' efforts to address the proficiency gap in education for African American students in Nevada. For our Branch, access to equity in education has been an important priority. We hope that our community can continue to work to find and create solutions for the ongoing issues related to the percentage of black students that reach proficiency. In addition, we hope efforts are taken to address the disproportionality that exists in the discipline of black students. Disciplinary action varies based on the student's race.

With the continued focus on reducing the proficiency gap for students in Clark County, a concerted strategy to reduce this gap for black students is essential for our community. Unfortunately, the disparity in proficiency remains for these students. In order to achieve equity in education, the NAACP Las Vegas Branch #1111 joins the Clark County Black Caucus in advocating for specific solutions to address the issue.

In our view, this strategy must include various solutions. One solution includes access to magnet schools, AP programs and career and technical academies. In Clark County, there is a disparity in funding and access to magnet and career and technical academies. Currently, the percentage of black students in these programs is far too low. An equity study and legislative action should be considered as we move forward to expand access to these programs. With greater access to these opportunities, more students will succeed in school and in their careers as adults.

Also, to address the racial disparity, cultural competency legislation must be enacted and restorative justice practices considered. Professional development and training to staff at all levels to address implicit bias and racism is important. Through expanding these efforts, we believe the disproportionate discipline of black students may be reduced.

As I said earlier, I hope that you will join the NAACP Las Vegas Branch #1111 and the Clark County Black Caucus to consider these efforts to address the proficiency gap for African American students. Please let me know what our Branch can do to help with this fight and what action is taken to address these important issues. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Roxann McCoy

Roxann McCoy
President
NAACP Las Vegas Branch #1111

Agenda Item V A-1 (EDUCATION) Meeting Date: 06-21-18
