

1919 2019

## Civil Rights Sentry for a Century

**WHEREAS,** seven out of eight African American public school students are enrolled in district-run schools, and

WHEREAS, there is a severe and persistent African American achievement gap throughout the State of California in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math,

**WHEREAS,** African American students across California scored 35 percent proficiency in ELA on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress as compared to 49 percent proficiency by all students; and

**WHEREAS,** African American students across California scored 22 percent proficiency in Math on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress as compared to 38 percent proficiency by all students; and

**WHEREAS,** the California State NAACP supported AB 2635 (Weber) to add African American students to the Local Control Funding Formula because African American Students are the lowest performing subgroup other than students with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS,** the top ten school districts with the highest enrollment of African American students are Los Angeles Unified, Oakland Unified, Long Beach Unified, San Diego Unified, Elk Grove Unified, Sacramento City Unified, Fresno Unified, San Bernardino Unified, West Contra Costa Unified and Moreno Valley Unified; and

**WHEREAS,** these school districts have an average African American achievement gap of 14.5 percent in ELA and 15.2 percent in Math when compared to the performance of all students; and

**WHEREAS,** African American students are three times more likely to be suspended than white students in California public schools; and

**WHEREAS,** African American students are more likely to be suspended for the same offenses committed by white students in California public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of the NAACP as a civil rights organization is to advocate for expanded opportunities for African American students; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP must hold all public schools to high academic standards for African American student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the academic performance of African American students must be the sole determinant of school district decision making rather than the financial benefit that a school district derives from public school funding generated by African American students; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools prioritize communities of highest need; and

**WHEREAS,** there are only ten public schools in California with majority African American student enrollment that perform in the top half of student performance statewide in ELA and Math and eight of those schools are charter public schools and

**WHEREAS,** according to California's Legislative Analyst's Office, African American families are more likely to choose public charter schools than other ethnic subgroups; and

**WHEREAS**, public charter schools serve nearly 50,000 African American students across California; and

**WHEREAS,** African American students enrolled in public charter schools achieve academic outcomes exceeding their peers in district-run schools; and

**WHEREAS**, public charter schools are public schools overseen and authorized by publicly elected school boards; and

**WHEREAS,** public charter schools are bound by California's AB 1360 (Bonta) to provide enrollment access for all students; and

**WHEREAS,** public charter schools are required by law to be transparent through the passage of California's SB 126 (<u>Leyva</u>); and

**WHEREAS,** the California legislature's passage of AB 406 (McCarty) eliminated for-profit public charter schools.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the NAACP supports all educational options for African American students that produce positive results; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the NAACP ends its call for a moratorium on public charter schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the NAACP calls on the California Legislature to develop and enforce robust public school accountability measures; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the NAACP supports quality public education for all African American children and recognizes the importance of parent choice.

Clovis Honoré President, NAACP San Diego Branch Steve Dorner Secretary, NAACP San Diego Branch