

November 15, 2021

Dear Ascend families,

We are so excited to have you and your students back in school this year! It is so amazing to see the learning of young scholars that we have the privilege to serve. Thank you for your continued partnership with Ascend. Much has changed over the last two academic years and we appreciate the continued support and confidence you've shown in entrusting Ascend with your children's education. Together, we've navigated shifts in where and how learning happens and introduced new technology to help every student have consistent access to learning, no matter what circumstances may bring.

One thing that has not changed and remains at the core of our daily work is our promise to all students for a rich, joyful, and supportive learning experience that equips them with the knowledge, confidence, and character to succeed in college and beyond. Essential to fulfilling that promise is our unwavering focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism (DEIA).

We are driven by a deep conviction for social justice and for fighting for the rights of all children, especially Black and Brown students and other groups who historically have not received the education that was promised to them.

[Our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism](#) is more than just a statement for us. It is a lens we use to do our work to create a learning environment where all students can thrive. Some examples of how this has come to life in our schools include:

- Strengthening our curriculum to center Black, Indigenous, and People of Color history, experiences, and perspectives in our social studies and history curriculum, diversifying texts in our English, language, arts curriculum, including social justice units in every grade, and aligning our math program to culturally responsive teaching practices
- New social and emotional learning programs to support student wellbeing
- Providing teachers and staff with professional development related to DEIA, including anti-racism training
- Developing policies and practices to ensure all students feel safe, included, and affirmed at school, including LGBTQIA+ students
- Establishing an Equity Advisory Committee with representatives from each school to continue to drive our work

Our work to become more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist is forever work and will require continuous growth and development. We value you as partners as we work together to provide students with the best possible learning experience. Please reach out to your school's leader, or contact us at [equity@ascendlearning.org](mailto:equity@ascendlearning.org) with any questions you may have about Ascend's ongoing commitment to DEIA.

Sincerely,

Recy Benjamin Dunn  
Chief Executive Officer

Danique Day  
Chief Schools Officer