

Message from the Superintendent



Greetings all,

Let me begin by wishing you and your loved ones well. I hope you are all healthy and staying safe during this time.

This is not your typical end-of-the-year update. It can't be. It can't be an update where I just congratulate and celebrate our graduates and students, as well as our hard-working staff who will now go on break or into ESY. Although I do acknowledge and celebrate all those things.

Since the tragic death of George Floyd, our nation's pain and divide has manifested into protests throughout America. I grieve his death and all those who have died before him in the hands of racism.

As difficult as these topics may be for many to discuss, if we are truly going to move forward, I must recognize that there are many in our community that are discriminated against and harmed because of their race.

As painful as this moment may be for our nation and our local communities, throughout history, it is moments such as these where educators are the ones that help determine the future, as we are on the frontlines of shaping minds and building confidence. I believe we need to teach our students that the continued racism in our world is wrong and we need to disrupt it. Our young people should not have to do all the work to change the world. We, the adults, need to take the steps to right these wrongs as well. Our children are watching us.

The CCCOE, as a community, have shown resilience over time. We are in a pandemic, have been sheltering in place, and have continued to work and support our students and our districts. We were already grieving those lost during the pandemic and now we grieve even deeper. We need to take care of ourselves, each other and our young people.

I want our organization to be an ally to the communities we serve. I want us to seek and build equitable solutions on behalf and in service of our students. We will continue our equity work, learning to talk about race and inequality with each other and in our classrooms in order to change our course and right the wrongs historically inflicted on so many in our cities, country, and world.

I am proud to be your colleague, your ally.

With Love,

Lynn

Please see the following resources to support our youth:

[Teaching Tolerance provides resources for talking to kids about race and racism](#)

[National Association of School Psychologists: Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

[National Association of School Psychologists: Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

[The National Child Traumatic Stress Network: Helping Youth after Community Trauma: Tips for Educators](#)

[National Association of School Psychologists: Understanding Race and Privilege](#)

[Media Smarts: Talking to Kids about Hate in Media](#)

[Anti-Defamation League: 5 Tips for Talking with Children about Hate Incidents](#)

[SAMHSA: Tips for Talking with and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event](#)

[Facing History and Ourselves](#)

Tips for Talking to Your Children About Current Events:

- Reassure them that they are safe
- Listen with your full attention
- Inform through age appropriate conversations
- Acknowledge feelings
- Watch for signs of distress
- Model self-care