



# THE ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

130 Trinity Avenue, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-802-2200 (P) 404-802-1204 (F)

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**January 8, 2021**

## **Statement from the Atlanta Board of Education on the Recent Events in Washington, D.C.**

### **Atlanta Board of Education's Statement:**

The Atlanta Board of Education denounces the assault upon the U.S. Capitol building and our democratic system of government. Unfortunately, we are in this position because of failed leadership by our president promoting the treasonous notion that people should take matters into their own hands in attempting what is nothing short of insurrection.

We are committed to teaching our students and youngest citizens the attributes and values of a strong democracy, particularly the notions of civility, civic engagement, and citizenship. For our nation to be strong, it is incumbent on us to teach our students the history of our nation and encourage them to understand the importance of our form of government and institutions.

At the same time, it is also important to recognize that our students witnessed a significant disparity in how law enforcement responded to the rioters of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday versus how law enforcement responded to peaceful Black Lives Matter protests from last summer. We knew this disparity existed in our society, but to see it happen when one of our Nation's most important institutions was under attack was traumatizing for many.

This is a reminder that there is much more work for us to do to root out systemic racism in this Country. As a Board and school district, we are committed to doing our part, and ask that Atlanta's families and staff remain committed to doing their part as well.

