

Here's a hard truth: As a product of our society, our nation's education system has a sordid history of racism, one that still permeates today.

Here's another hard truth: If we do not actively, consciously create spaces, policies, and practices that combat racism, we will re-enforce racism in our schools, and, in turn, our society.

**[One way to engage students and communities with issues of social justice is to participate in the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, February 4 to 8.](#)**

Racism and systems of oppression are heavy subjects. But, even first graders respond to books and exercises that put an emphasis on understanding why people are different and treating others fairly.

There are any number of ways to get involved. Display a poster to show your support for change. Engage your classroom in one or several activities. Read a selection from the Read Across America Calendar to your class. Propose your school or district adopt a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter guiding principles.

**[NEA's Center for Social Justice has worked with our coalition partners to assemble resources for you to participate in the Black Lives Matter At Schools Week of Action.](#)**

While the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is only five days long, these are lessons and actions we should practice all year round.

Let's be the change we seek in the world. If we start with our own families and classrooms, it will have a ripple effect across your school, community, state, and yes, even our nation.

In solidarity,

Lily Eskelsen García  
President  
National Education Association

P.S. Each day next week, we'll be sharing simple actions you can take as part of the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. Be sure to follow NEA on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and #BlackLivesMatterAtSchool.

**Black Lives Matter at School**