

Responding to the Violence Toward the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community

A Guide for Supporting Reflection, Learning and Engagement

Updated March 19, 2021

Chicago Public Schools unequivocally condemns the recent fatal violence in Atlanta and the persistent racist attacks many members of our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities have experienced over the last year. The surge of anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic is a call for all of us to take a stand against hate and to take action against intolerance.

As a school district, we have a responsibility to educate our youth about the racism in our country and the toxic and pervasive effects of disinformation, fearmongering, and hate speech. This is our collective struggle, and one in which schools have a unique opportunity and responsibility to educate our students about these systemic issues and ways they can support, encourage, and take action to create a more inclusive and just society.

These conversations are absolutely crucial, and engaging students in emotional and politically charged issues takes careful planning, especially when done remotely. We have curated resources to support and encourage our educators in deciding to talk about hate, these recent tragedies, and how we can take action moving forward. We encourage these serious and necessary conversations in our classrooms, and we will support our school communities as they listen and lift each other up when members of our community are facing pain, trauma, racism, and systems of oppression.

To members of our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, you are not alone. We are in this together and we will continue to speak out against racism and violence against you.

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For questions or support, contact the CPS Department of Social Science and Civic Engagement at SSCE@cps.edu.

Personal Learning | Our work towards an equitable, anti-racist society begins with self-reflection and a deepening of our own understanding.

<p>Asian Americans Advancing Justice</p>	<p>This organization offers a way to share stories and provides resources to stand up against hate. Included is a Guide to Bystander Intervention from Hollaback, which outlines tips on how we all can intervene if we witness harassment and contribute to safe, supporting spaces.</p>
<p>Centering APIA Students in the Classroom</p>	<p>Leading scholars in the field of Asian American education discuss barriers to delivering quality education to Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) students today, the emergence and pervasiveness of the “model minority myth,” its effects on APIA and non-APIA people, and how educators can actively center the needs and experiences of their APIA students.</p>

Professional Resources | Classroom Instruction Resources

Getting Started: Begin with understanding the facts about the increase in anti-Asian racism and hate speech during the pandemic:

1. PBS Newshour: [Daily News Lesson: Asian Americans face a wave of discrimination during the pandemic](#)
2. The Wall Street Journal: [For Asian-Americans, Atlanta Spa Shootings Heighten Worries](#)
3. Asian Americans Advancing Justice: [A Unit Plan for Learning about Hate Crimes and Microaggressions](#)
4. New York Times: [Articles about the increased violence against Asian Americans during the pandemic and ways students can act to stop it in their school or community](#)
5. Anti-Defamation League: [Learn how individuals and groups can challenge anti-Asian bias and act as an ally](#)
6. CNBC: [How millennial Nobel Prize nominee Amanda Nguyen’s viral video sparked coverage of anti-Asian racism](#)

Dig Deeper: Extend your inquiry through varied disciplinary lenses.

Intersectionality

[Nancy Wang Yuen: Atlanta spa shooting suspect's 'bad day' defense...](#)

Dr. Yuen is an associate professor of sociology and a public speaker, author, freelance writer, and cultural consultant. In this article, she discusses how Asian women, along with Black and Indigenous women and other women of color, endure racism and sexism in intersectional ways constantly today and throughout history.

History, Government, and Policy

[George Takei on Standing Up to Racism, Then and Now](#)

George Takei on his experience surviving Japanese American incarceration and the lessons he subsequently learned from his father about the importance of relentless civic engagement. Takei is the author of the graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy*

	(2019) in which he integrates his childhood experience of incarceration with perspectives gleaned from older survivors to offer readers of all ages an accessible window into his family's experience.
The history of attacks against Asian Americans is complicated. Addressing it will be, too	To understand the racism Asian American communities face in the present day, it's important to acknowledge the unique position that Asian Americans occupy in the United States' racial hierarchy.
Recent Rise in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Doesn't Mean Anti-Asian Racism Is New	This op-ed explores how recent anti-Asian violence is rooted in a long history of racism and U.S. policy.
Violence Against Asian Americans Is on the Rise—But It's Part of a Long History	These three articles expand on the fact that from the time the first wave of Chinese immigrants arrived as laborers in the U.S. in the 1850s, Asian Americans have always been subject to racist violence in our country.
The long history of anti-Asian hate in America, explained	
The Atlanta Shootings Fit Into a Long Legacy of Anti-Asian Violence in America	
Media Literacy	
Stanford History Education Group: Civic Online Reasoning	The COR curriculum provides free lessons and assessments that support educators in teaching students to evaluate online information that affects them, their communities, and the world.
Speaking Up Against Racism Around the Coronavirus	The spread of the new coronavirus has become racialized, so it's critical that educators understand the historical context and confront racist tropes and xenophobia from students and colleagues.

Social Emotional Learning and Support	
Teaching Tolerance: Living with the Bear	This article discusses how constant exposure to violence via social media is harming our youth, and how we can give them the support they need.
NCTSN: Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: a Resource for Educators	This resource from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is designed to help educators understand the interplay of race and trauma in the classroom. The guide reviews historical trauma and racial trauma, explains the impact of trauma on different age groups, and offers supplemental resources.

Discussing Critical and Difficult Topics with Students

<u>Teaching Tolerance: Let's Talk "Discussing Race, Racism, and Other Difficult Topics with Students"</u>	This resource includes strategies for preparing and engaging students in discussion of difficult topics.
<u>SRI: Connections Protocol</u>	This protocol outlines how students can share their thoughts and connect with their peers.
<u>SSCE: Silent Discussion Using Sticky Note Slides</u>	This resource allows students to share what they are feeling, what they are thinking, and their questions through writing.