



January 31, 2017

Dear Education Community,

Since November, my Administration has been working hard to remind residents, as well as the rest of the nation, that our DC values did not change on Election Day. In Washington, DC, we value our diversity and inclusivity, and I will always make it my top priority to uphold and defend our values.

As educators and families, I know you work each and every day to create welcoming and safe environments for your students and children, and I will continue to do the same for every person who lives in or visits Washington, DC. There is absolutely no place for discrimination or threats in our classrooms or anywhere in our city.

I am incredibly proud to lead a diverse city and a city that has some of the strongest protections in the country for residents who stand the greatest risk of discrimination and threat. I want our students and families to feel safe knowing that we take these protections seriously, and we are working to ensure that all residents know and can take advantage of their rights. Some schools have already sent [messages](#) to their students and families informing them of these rights, and the U.S. Department of Education released a [statement](#) on diversity and inclusion with a number of resources.

In addition, educators, families, and students can report incidents of discrimination and bullying by calling 202-727-0455. Incidents can also be reported via email to the DC Office of Human Rights at bullyingprevention@dc.gov.

We thank you for the hard work that you do each day to ensure that all of our students get the educational experience they need and deserve. Recently, you may have heard me quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” These words are as meaningful and appropriate today as they were Dr. King first said them.

I support your ongoing commitment to creating learning environments that are safe spaces for our students to learn, grow, and thrive. Each day, we must remind one another – especially our students – how far kindness will take us.

Put simply, we are all in this together. We are Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Mayor Muriel Bowser