



ASCA Statement on State of Minnesota v. Derek Michael Chauvin

The work to dismantle systemic racism in our country is an enormous challenge. Accountability for George Floyd's murder is an important milestone when the killings of so many Black men and women have gone unpunished. The verdict in State of Minnesota v. Derek Michael Chauvin is a step in the right direction. However, this one decision doesn't begin to repair the centuries of racism that brought us here. So much work remains.

As individuals, it's vital to continue the battle to eliminate racism. As school counselors, we have the opportunity – and moral imperative – to work to dismantle racist education practices in a system founded on white supremacy.

The ASCA Ethical Standards call for school counselors to be systemic change agents who embrace their roles as advocates, leaders and collaborators by providing equitable educational access and success. All educators, especially school counselors, have an obligation to work to end racism and bias. We must also work to examine our own biases, enhance our awareness, obtain and demonstrate culturally sustaining knowledge and skills, engage in action through advocacy, and actively combat racism when we see it. School counselors have the power to lead by example and address education policies, procedures and issues leading to inequity in achievement, access and opportunity.

In the coming weeks and months, particularly as school staff and students struggle with acts of racism and racially motivated violence, school counselors will be challenged to support students while also processing their own emotions. ASCA maintains numerous resources to help school counselors and other educators work with students to help them cope with the current crises and bring about systemic change. These resources are available at www.schoolcounselor.org/anti-racism and are open to all.