

FABE STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES MATTER JUNE, 2020



Florida Association for Bilingual Education
www.fabefl.org

The Florida Association for Bilingual Education supports the Black Lives Matter movement and stands against racism, discrimination and injustice. The FABE board condemns the murder of George Floyd and the countless black lives that are lost or destroyed by racism in this country. As educators and advocates for bilingual education, we strive for inclusion, cultural understanding and equal access to the benefits and opportunities that follow multilingualism. However, we must examine our own practice and ask ourselves, “Do black lives matter in bilingual education?” What does an anti-racist bilingual education classroom look like? Quoting a great 2016 blog post by Nelson Flores (Associate Professor of Education, University of Pennsylvania):

“While it may seem counterintuitive to focus on combating anti-Blackness in discussions of bilingual education that have most been associated with the Latinx community, as the founders of #BlackLivesMatter remind us “when Black people get free, everybody gets free.” The only way to ensure that bilingual education is a tool for social change is to ensure that it is situated within a broader project that seeks to dismantle anti-Blackness.”

FABE is committed to advocacy for inclusion and access in bilingual education. Our educational institutions must embrace and welcome these difficult conversations and the inclusion of diverse perspectives and populations. Therefore, we are committed to elevating the voices and experiences of our Black colleagues and educators. We aim to combat the systemic racism and harm that has resulted from racial injustices suffered around the US and worldwide.