



PROCLAMATION

Juneteenth National Independence Day June 2025

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth represents the triumph of freedom over slavery, the strength and unique historical experiences of African American, African, and Black Americans, and the ongoing journey toward justice, equality, and civil rights in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday known as Juneteenth National Independence Day, becoming a symbol of the nation's commitment to reflecting on the past and building a more inclusive future; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday in 2020 as a celebration of Black culture, history, resilience, joy and freedom, which are American values; and

WHEREAS, the Loudoun County School Board acknowledges the importance of teaching history in its full complexity and truth, including the legacies of slavery and the contributions of African Americans to our nation; and

WHEREAS, African Americans make up 8.2 percent of residents in Loudoun County and 7.3 percent of students in Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS); and

WHEREAS, LCPS is committed to fostering inclusive learning environments that honor the dignity, culture, and contributions of all people, and to empowering students to become thoughtful, informed citizens who value diversity and justice;

WHEREAS, especially on Juneteenth, we acknowledge and highlight the many achievements and profound contributions made by African American, African, and Black Americans to the economic, cultural, educational, and political development of Loudoun County, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Loudoun County School Board recognizes and honors Juneteenth as a day of reflection, education, and celebration within our school community and an opportunity to engage in learning that will ensure improved relationships and respect, an improved collective sense of belonging, and freedom from prejudice and hate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board encourages all students, staff, and families to engage in meaningful learning experiences, classroom discussions, and community events that commemorate Juneteenth and promote equity, awareness, and unity.

[CLERK - Insert School Board Signatures]

Adopted this [date] day of [month], [year].
Loudoun County School Board