



## **Statement Against AAPI Violence and Hate**

The SELPA Administrators of California strongly condemns all acts of racism and hatred perpetrated against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, as we do against members of any protected class. The past year has seen a dramatic increase in the ongoing occurrence of hateful speech, violent acts and crimes against those in the AAPI community. We are shocked and deeply saddened by the recent murders of six Asian women in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as other recent acts of violence, which have brought national attention to anti-AAPI discrimination and harassment in all its forms, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand united with our AAPI families and staff as they continue to grieve and process these tragic events.

As SELPA leaders, our daily work includes educating staff and students about the power of equity, diversity, and inclusion for students with disabilities. We help to give voice and value to students and families who sometimes, due to institutional barriers, cultural or linguistic differences, lack of resources, bias and prejudice, or challenges with communication, are not always able to advocate for themselves. Our SELPA community shares much in common with the AAPI community whose members, for many of the same reasons, are themselves so often marginalized.

Equity, tolerance, respect, and justice are a few of our core values as SELPA Administrators of California. When we witness micro-aggressions, harassment, or violence in the school or work environment, each of us is responsible to confront and interrupt these behaviors, to offer assistance to those harmed, and to respond by educating against exactly the type of fear and ignorance that is at the center of these incidents. In solidarity with the AAPI community and other traditionally marginalized groups, we reaffirm our Association's solemn commitment to work for a future in which fairness and respect for all is the norm and our interventions are no longer required.

Approved: April 2, 2021