



October 7, 2021

Newberg Education Association
Attn: Jennifer Schneider

The Eugene Education Association stands in solidarity with our fellow educators at the Newberg Education Association, with Newberg students, and with Newberg community members, in the desire to support all members of the community to be fully and freely themselves.

We know our communities are stronger and that they thrive when everyone's voices are welcome. When each of us feels our identity is seen and cultivated, we know we can continue to grow into the healthy and fulfilled people we want to be. There is nothing political or controversial about this; indeed, it is the embodiment of love and care. As educators in our community, this is what we stand for, and what we do with our students every day. Hate has no place in our schools, districts, or communities.

As schools have reopened this fall and students and staff have returned, the need to build community and connection is paramount. We know a healthy community recognizes and affirms the lives and experiences of all of its members. We know that Black lives matter. We know our students and staff include members of our LGBTQ+ community, and are welcome in our classrooms and hallways, at all our events and performances, online and in person. We take pride in welcoming and supporting these staff and students who have been targeted and marginalized by district policies and practices, now and in the past.

Our students and staff need us to make this message clear: We see you, and we honor you as members of our community. Identity-affirming signs, symbols, and language throughout our classrooms, hallways, and schools helps us build community and cultivate relationships. Indeed, specific positive messages letting students know they belong and affirming their identity can save lives.

We know that you, as educators in Newberg, want to make this clear to every student in your community. As educators in Eugene, we stand with you in your desire to express free speech and freedom of expression in support of your students and staff. Eugene Education Association stands with you, your students, and your community in affirming that all of our students are valued and respected.

In Solidarity and on behalf of the members of EEA,

Jesse Scott, EEA Committee on Racial Equity
Casey Tiemann, EEA Human and Civil Rights Committee

Imelda Cortez, EEA Vice President (4J)
Curt Nordling, EEA Vice President (Bethel)
Sabrina Gordon, EEA President
EEA Executive Board