



Advocacy to Promote Use of Open Education Resources Resolution

Introduction

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored people strongly supports the goal to promote high quality education among all students throughout the United States. To meet this goal, teachers and schools must have high quality academic resources, which has not been the situation for many African American students. Furthermore, effective implementation of rigorous educational standards for all students requires that quality curricular and other materials are readily available as well as affordable to educational agencies. In order to increase access and reinforce opportunities for exposure to high quality resources for African American and other minorities, the NAACP poses that educational agencies should take advantage of Open Education Resources (OER).

ACHIEVE, a widely respected national independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit education reform organization defines Open Education Resources (OER) as “teaching, learning and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OER are a departure from materials that have traditional, all rights reserved licensing, which restricts the revision and sharing of these resources. In addition, OER can take many forms — lesson or unit plans, guides for professional learning, performance tasks, rubrics, and other tools to support teaching and learning.”

The following resolution, Advocacy to Promote Use of Open Education Resources, was sponsored and adopted by the Maryland State Conference NAACP (MSC-NAACP) on April 16, 2016 and submitted to the national NAACP for ratification. Delegates to the national 107th Annual NAACP Convention approved the resolution in July 2016. Upon ratification by the NAACP National Board of Directors at its October 2016 meeting, the resolution became the official policy of the Association.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) advocates equity for minority groups and all citizens and views education as a means to obtaining success in personal and professional lives as well as becoming productive and contributing members of society; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP recognizes that African American and other minorities often do not have sufficient access to such appropriate academic materials to make attainment of rigorous standards possible; and

WHEREAS, all students should be afforded college and career readiness by completion of high school and meeting rigorous educational standards; and

WHEREAS, the quality of educational opportunities corresponds to availability of quality resources; and

WHEREAS, education costs related to curriculum development, including textbooks and other instructional and learning materials, may place an inordinate financial burden on many minority and other communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, economic disparities within communities contribute to funding disparities between school districts and schools; and

WHEREAS, many school districts are not financially able to obtain high quality curricular, instruction, and supplemental materials.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates that all state and local educational agencies be encouraged to acquire, use, and share open license curriculum and other Open Education Resources (OER); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates that state educational agencies provide appropriate assistance to their respective local school districts related to distribution, organization, and standards alignment of relevant OER materials.