



August 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to document the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition's organizational support for the efforts of the Fort Bend ISD Equity Coalition in addressing the widespread systemic and institutional racism that permeates the lives of students attending school within the Fort Bend Independent School District (FBISD). It is important that the voices of students and former students of FBISD in the Fort Bend ISD Equity Coalition be heard at this time, and their demands for a learning environment that is truly anti-racist learning environment must be recognized.

The coalition's demand for a re-evaluation of the relationship with school police and security in all FBISD schools is particularly important. After the discriminatory nature of FBISD's disciplinary practices were documented by a 2018 United States Department of Education (DOE) Civil Rights investigation, FBISD's leaders initially issued a press release claiming that the DOE probe found "no wrongdoing" on their part, despite the DOE's finding that black students were six times more likely to receive out-of-school suspensions than white students and four times as likely to be placed on in-school suspension. FBISD also made this claim despite entering into a resolution agreement to correct their disciplinary practices, nor the five corrective steps that the DOE's Office of Civil Rights declared necessary to remedy the racism that permeates FBISD's disciplinary process.

FBISD's handling of the Department of Education probe into their discriminatory disciplinary practices makes clear that student input into these issues would be of great benefit to the district. We look forward to supporting the Fort Bend ISD Equity Coalition as they seek to create a truly anti-racist learning environment!

Best,

Jay Jenkins

Jay Jenkins
Harris County Project Attorney
Texas Criminal Justice Coalition