

Students for Fair Admissions

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Press Release

For Immediate Release:
October 19, 2020

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Evanston Illinois School District #65 Strongly Urged to Reject Race-Based Seats for In-Person Learning

(Arlington, VA) Today, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) sent letters to Evanston School Superintendent Devon Horton and each member of the board strongly urging them to not use a student's race or ethnicity as a factor for in-person classroom attendance.

Dr. Horton has proposed giving certain "marginalized groups" priority for in-person, classroom attendance while non-marginalized groups would be forced to continue classes remotely. The letter notes that this proposed policy violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Edward Blum, president of SFFA said, "The U.S. Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws forbid treating school children differently because of their race and ethnicity. Dr. Horton's proposal to require most white and Asian-American children to be kept out of all classrooms, while giving all black and Hispanic children in-person classroom learning, is repugnant and unconstitutional."

Blum added, “SFFA’s letter notes there are significant percentages of academically underachieving non-minority children who would be barred from attending classes in-person. This fact alone makes this terribly misguided policy illegal and likely to be challenged in court.”

Blum concluded, “If implemented, these racially-exclusive policies will subject the school district to costly and polarizing litigation.”

Students for Fair Admissions is a nonprofit membership organization with over 22,000 members. SFFA is currently challenging in federal court the discriminatory admissions policies at Harvard, the Univ. of North Carolina and the Univ. of Texas.

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