



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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<i>Council Members:</i>				
Norman Cohn	Sulinda Hong		Danielle Giunta	
Dilip Nath	Taeho Hwang		Community Superintendent	
Jennifer Catherall			District 26	

Dear Chancellor Banks,

We would like to follow-up on a question posed at our District 26 Town Hall held on March 22, 2022, regarding the alarming rise of anti-Asian hate incidents in New York City. The following information provides additional clarification on the significance of AAPI Heritage Month.

- The U.S. Census Bureau defines Asian as “A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam,” and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander as “A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.”¹
- The term AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) has its origins in Public Law 95-419, passed by Congress in Oct 1978²
- President Jimmy Carter subsequently issued Proclamation 4650 in Mar 1979 declaring Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week in May.³
- In May 1990, President George H.W. Bush issued Presidential Proclamation 6130 extending Asian/Pacific American Heritage celebrations to a duration of one month.⁴
- Congress passed Public Law 102-450 in Oct 1992, designating AAPI Heritage month in May.⁵
- Several important events occurred in May, such as the 1843 arrival of the first Japanese immigrants and the contributions of Chinese laborers in the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869.⁶
- Numerous AAPI Heritage Month celebratory events are highlighted on a federal government website jointly hosted by The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.⁷

In our *Resolution to Prevent Anti-Asian Racism and Bullying in Schools*, passed on Oct 21, 2021, we urged the previous mayor and chancellor to take concrete actions to prevent anti-Asian racism. Aside from including a comprehensive historical experience of the Asian-American community in the next revision to the school curriculum, we also recommended holding celebrations of AAPI Heritage Month in all schools city-wide. Please join the community in the monthlong celebrations of the Asian-American Pacific Islander cultures.

Sincerely,
Community Education Council District 26

¹ <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-92/pdf/STATUTE-92-Pg920.pdf>

³ <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-4650-asianpacific-american-heritage-week-1979>

⁴ <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-6130-asianpacific-american-heritage-month-1990>

⁵ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-106/pdf/STATUTE-106-Pg2251.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/a36353830/aapi-meaning-asian-american-pacific-islander/>

⁷ <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/>