

CROWN ACT WEEK RESOLUTION

Durham Public Schools expressing support for the designation of the week of March 1st - 7th, 2021 as The CROWN Act Week.

Whereas, the Coalition of the CROWN Act wants all beauty to be welcome in all places and institutions. They assert that narrow beauty standards make it difficult for women to freely celebrate their own beauty. While all women experience pressure to conform to certain standards of appearance, Black women are disproportionately impacted by the Eurocentric standards that so often define what is beautiful; and

Whereas, research has shown that society's bias has resulted in unfair judgment and discrimination against Black women based on hair texture and protective hairstyles including braids, locs, and twists that are cultural representations of their race; and

Whereas, in the US, the law in many states does not currently afford protection for race-based hair discrimination, even if the hairstyle is inherent to racial identity. It means Black children can be denied entry to school or educational opportunities because of their natural hair. This is NOT OK; and

Whereas, the CROWN Act, which stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, is a law that prohibits discrimination based on hair texture and hairstyle.

The Coalition of the CROWN Act's mission was, and is today, to advance efforts to end hair discrimination and to create a more equitable and inclusive beauty experience for Black women and girls; and

Whereas, Durham City Council elected officials have passed a "Non-Discrimination Ordinance of the City of Durham" and assert that the general purpose of this Chapter is to provide individuals within the City of Durham freedom from discrimination, in connection with housing, employment, and public accommodations, because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and protected hairstyle to promote harmony in human relations and to prevent commercial advantage from unethical practices.

Whereas, one of Durham Public Schools' core beliefs is in a child-centered approach in which our students deserve an education that is caring, is culturally responsive and embraces the whole child. Durham Public Schools insists on addressing the social, emotional, and academic needs of each student, and

Whereas, Durham Public Schools has a dress code policy ([4301–Rule I.A-3](#)) that reads, “the primary goal of Durham Public Schools is to provide a safe learning environment where all students are able to achieve at their highest potential.” Ideally, students

should be able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming;

Whereas, the CROWN Coalition offers a platform that uplifts support to end hair discrimination, and they continue to galvanize support for legislation to end hair discrimination federally and in all 50 states. The CROWN petition has over 248,000 signatures so far, too, and Durham Public Schools Board of Education supports [signing this petition](#); and

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education supports the designation of March 1-7, 2021, as The Crown Act Week across all Durham Public Schools and calls on all students, educators, and community members to observe the week to advance efforts to end hair discrimination and to create a more equitable and inclusive beauty experience for Black women and girls where students are affirmed and can express themselves in a safe and positive way.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education encourages Administrators to support educators across grade levels and content areas from their buildings to acknowledge The Crown Act Week and use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners in order to support the whole child, healthy identity development and affirmation, and show support and acceptance for students showing up without fear of discrimination or shame.

This is the _____ day of _____, 2021



Bettina Umstead, Chair



Mike Lee, Vice Chair



Natalie Beyer



Frederick Ravin III



Jovonia Lewis



Matt Sears



Alexandra Valladares