



**NAACP**  
*Pennsylvania*  
STATE CONFERENCE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Although we have entered a brand-new year in 2021, unfortunately it appears to have begun in the manner we exited 2020. Clearly in reviewing a lawsuit filed January 1, 2021, against the Gateway School District, the act of discrimination is still running rampant.

What message is sent to students, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and the community at large, when a school board director is the culprit in perpetuating racist acts that contribute to systemic racism that has existed in school districts for years? School board directors have a specific responsibility to ensure there is great teaching, equitable resources, a vision and goals established that adhere to the overall philosophy of educational excellence, laws and regulations that impact the work of a school district are followed and that policies are clearly constructed for implementation to improve the work of the district and its schools. However, in the matter of Paul Caliori or any other school board director with a mind to demean, and whose actions are clouded by racism, the consequences must be removal by way of resignation or any other method conducive to individuals understanding that a community will not tolerate such behavior.

The mission of the NAACP is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. Violation of local, state, and federal laws and policies of this magnitude cannot be tolerated and serves as an injustice to all students making an effort to acquire educational excellence. Discriminatory acts are not new to this school district, but in 2021 every effort should be made to make sure that this type of behavior ceases immediately.

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Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The Pennsylvania State Conference was established in 1934 and pursues the same mission throughout the Commonwealth.