Towson, MD – Baltimore County Public Schools has released the following statements regarding recent incidents of violence, including occurrences of hate and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

From Superintendent Dr. Darryl L. Williams

Yesterday, as we were still reeling from the recent mass shooting in Georgia, we experienced another mass shooting in Colorado. While there is no indication that the Colorado shooting was related to race or gender, we must condemn all acts of mass violence that threaten us both as individuals and as a society.

We work hard as a school system to keep our students and staff safe, and yet there are constant reminders that our safety is tenuous.

We are especially heartbroken to see the increase of hate and violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders throughout the United States. Our Asian American and Pacific Islander families, staff, and community members have an absolute right to live in peace, as we all do.

To support our community in dealing with tragic situations, school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists are available to support students. In addition, our teachers have access to a
Creating Spaces document that provides guidance on facilitating open conversations about current events. We encourage staff to access confidential resources and supports through our Employee Assistance Program.

At Team BCPS, our diversity is our strength, and we denounce racism and attacks against anyone. Racism happens in small and large ways, both within our communities and around the world, and it is imperative that we always call out hate in all forms as we continue our equity work.

From Makeda Scott, Chair of the Board of Education of Baltimore County

We have been shaken, as have people around the world, by the recent acts of violence in Colorado and in Georgia, the latter apparently part of an escalation in attacks generally against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. No excuses can or should be made for such violence. It is wrong, and it goes against what this nation aspires to be – a place of opportunity for all.

We stand with all peace-loving people, and especially our Asian American and Pacific Islander students, teachers, staff, and communities, in denouncing violence and hate and calling for justice. Let’s teach our children that hurting others is never an acceptable way of solving problems, and that differences should be celebrated, not feared.

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Baltimore County Public Schools, the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates many honors.