

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260479)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the week of May 4-8 as “National Teacher Appreciation Week” and May 7 as “Black Teacher Appreciation Day” in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Teachers are the backbone of our educational system, shaping the intellectual, social, and emotional development of students and preparing them to succeed in school, work, and life; and

WHEREAS, Educators frequently go beyond their formal responsibilities-purchasing classroom supplies, mentoring students outside school hours, and building meaningful relationships that extend into the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Across Philadelphia and the nation, teachers continue to navigate evolving challenges-from resource gaps to student mental health needs-while remaining steadfast in their commitment to educational equity and student success; and

WHEREAS, National Teacher Appreciation Week, established by the National Education Association in 1985, builds on a tradition that began in 1953 when First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt successfully urged Congress to formally recognize the vital contributions of teachers; and

WHEREAS, May 7 is recognized as Black Teacher Appreciation Day, a National Day of Action led by the Center for Black Educator Development, which highlights the important contributions of Black educators as part of the broader teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Today, Black teachers remain underrepresented nationwide - making up roughly 7% of the teaching workforce - despite research showing that all students benefit from diverse educators, and that Black students in particular experience improved academic outcomes, higher graduation rates, and increased access to opportunity when taught by Black teachers; and

WHEREAS, Teacher unions, including the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers have played a critical role

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in advancing workplace protections, professional standards, and educational equity across the country; and

WHEREAS, The impact of a dedicated teacher often extends far beyond a single school year, shaping students' confidence, aspirations, and sense of possibility for years to come, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Recognizes May 4-8, 2026, as "Teacher Appreciation Week" and May 7, 2026, as "Black Teacher Appreciation Day" in Philadelphia, and encourages students, parents, school staff, and community members to honor teachers for their service and lasting impact. Council reaffirms its commitment to policies and investments that support, recruit, and retain a strong, diverse educator workforce, recognizing that Philadelphia's future depends on those who teach and guide the next generation.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the seventh day of May, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Young

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Young, Gilmore Richardson, Thomas,
Landau, Lozada, O'Rourke, Squilla and Ahmad