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**Schools for Climate Action and the National Black Council of School Boards Association Fight Climate Change**

***Resolution Passed Urging Federal Government to Act***

**March 6, 2019** – [Schools for Climate Action](https://schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com/) (S4CA), which empowers schools to advocate for climate change solutions, and the [National Black Council of School Boards Association](https://www.nsba.org/tags/national-black-council) (NBC), which represents students in underserved school districts, have partnered to pass a Climate Action Resolution urging the federal government to address the growing climate crisis facing the United States. The resolution will be hand-delivered to the U.S. Congress during the first *Students for Climate Action Summit* held at the U.S. Capitol on March 28, 2019.

NBC members voted unanimously in favor of the resolution that declares:

*“The National Black Council recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America’s schools, students, and their communities. NBC urges the Congress and Administration of the United States to provide mitigation for the effects on our communities. Specifically, NBC advocates for funding for school infrastructure needs and emergency funding for disaster relief caused by natural catastrophes and extreme weather events. Furthermore, NBC urges a reduction of carbon emissions and an increase in carbon-free electricity production to slow the rapid progression of climate change and its effects on America’s schools, students and communities. Additionally, NBC encourages states to adopt a curriculum that addresses the challenges that climate change puts on our communities and equip students with the knowledge necessary to slow such changes.”*

Last year the U.S. Government issued their [Fourth National Climate Assessment](https://www.globalchange.gov/nca4). The report from 13 federal agencies paints a devastating picture for the nation’s economy, health, and infrastructure if substantial efforts are not undertaken to mitigate the effects of climate change. In response, groups like S4CA and NBC are urging federal officials to address the problem before it is too late.

"Millions of educators and leaders across the country have a singular focus on the well-being and future success of young people,” said Park Guthrie, the Founder of S4CA and 6th grade teacher out of Sonoma County California. “The devastating price of climate-related traumatic events is clear and must be addressed.”

Guthrie added, “School board climate action resolutions like the one passed by the National Black Council are a non-partisan tool for concerned educational leaders. We expect thousands of school boards, student councils, and PTAs across the country will quickly pass these resolutions to send an assertive and compassionate message: Congress has a moral imperative to quickly pass bold, common-sense climate policies to limit harm to students.”

“I am excited to be working with Students for Climate Action to bring resolutions and policy recommendations to local school districts,” said Devin Del Palacio, Chairman-Elect for the NBC and Chair of the Black Caucus of the Arizona School Boards Association. “We have a responsibility to protect the future for our students and there is no greater threat than climate change. That is why I was honored to introduce and helped get passed a Climate Action Resolution, which urges school districts and members of Congress to act immediately to mitigate the effects of climate change.”

Del Palacio added, “Environmental concerns are also an issue of equity. Research shows that 78 percent of African Americans live within 30 miles of a toxic-spewing coal plant, which helps explain why [one out of six black kids suffers from asthma](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvitalsigns%2Fasthma%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C04095daf92504c79469908d69f9e3058%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636871899089782066&sdata=Zf9qQ0xrdc%2FUWA9PzAei5cU9xGCRKm00hL3imYo1QaU%3D&reserved=0) -- compared with a national average of one in ten kids. I hope the passage of the Climate Action Resolution by the National Black Council will provide the impetus for elected officials to act. I am excited to travel to Washington, D.C. for the first ever *Students for Climate Action Summit* and can't wait to share the stage with other great leaders in this cause.”

The *Students for Climate Action Summit* will have youth-adult teams representing school districts and student councils from across the country to hand-deliver Climate Action Resolutions to all 535 Congressional Offices.

In just over a year, 33 school boards, six student councils, and two PTA from eight states have passed S4CA climate action resolutions. More student councils, school boards, and educational organizations are passing new resolutions each week.

The event expects hundreds of attendees with two youth participants for every adult. A press conference and panels that include members of Congress, national climate and children’s welfare experts, youth advocates, and educators will be also be held. The event sponsors are [Schools for Climate Action](http://www.schoolsforclimateacton.org/) and [Young Voices for the Planet](https://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/).

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[Schools for Climate Action](http://www.schoolsforclimateacton.org/), a non-partisan, youth-adult, grassroots campaign to empower school communities to speak up for climate action.