

## NEWS

# White House confirms that Biden will pick Black woman for Supreme Court seat

WASHINGTON — President Biden will stand by his campaign promise to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Wednesday afternoon, just hours after news outlets reported that Justice Stephen Breyer is set to retire at the end of the current term.

“The president has stated, and reiterated, his commitment to nominating a Black woman to the Supreme Court and certainly stands by that,” Psaki said, declining to give any further details. That woman, however, will not be Vice President Kamala Harris, despite some speculation that he would nominate her to the high court, thus paving the way to choose a new vice presi-

dent ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

“The president has every intention, as he said before, of running for reelection, and running for reelection with Vice President Harris on the ticket as his partner,” Psaki said during the briefing.

Biden made his Supreme Court promise in 2020 while he was locked in a fierce primary battle for the Democratic presidential nomination. “I’m looking forward to making sure there’s a Black woman on the Supreme Court, to make sure we in fact get everyone represented,” he said as he campaigned in South Carolina.

His victory in that state helped him secure the nomina-



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tion over progressives like Sen. Bernie Sanders.

A likely replacement for Breyer is Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Harvard-trained jurist who sits on the same D.C. circuit court that was home to Brett Kavanaugh before then-President Donald Trump nominated him to the Supreme Court.

In the court’s history, there have been only two Black justices: Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas. A Black woman has never been nominated to the Supreme Court, let alone confirmed. (January 26, 2022)

# Schools join the fight against human trafficking

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Education leaders across the U.S. are trying to figure out how to effectively teach students about the risks and warning signs of human trafficking, which includes being forced into domestic servitude, commercial labor or sex work.

According to 2019 data gathered by the Polaris Project – a nonprofit that fights human trafficking, including sex trafficking – 24% of survivors reported that they were first trafficked before they turned 18.

In 2017, California became the first state to require human trafficking education for students and teachers. Tennessee, Florida and Virginia also now require school staff to receive formal training intended to stop human trafficking.

As cases of human trafficking continue to make headlines, similar prevention and education efforts are being made in schools across the country. Parents and community members in other states may also find similar efforts coming to their communities. As a scholar who studies business ethics – and as executive director of the Center for Ethics and Human Rights at Colorado State University – I recommend school leaders keep five key goals in mind when creating anti-trafficking educational programs.

## 1. Create a safe haven

Childhood researchers suggest that children need a safe haven where they can go when confronted with fear and threats. They also need a secure base, a place where they feel secure to explore the world around them.

Ideally, children’s homes would serve these purposes. But schools can also provide safe havens and secure bases. Children who feel more secure are less vulnerable to predatory people, who often fake affection and provide a false sense of love as a tactic to lure kids into the world of human trafficking.

## 2. Pay attention to triggers



When being taught about human trafficking, it’s possible that children’s memories of past trauma might be triggered. Educators who are aware of this possibility are more likely to be better at protecting kids from being triggered, and better able to respond properly if it happens. Many children have been exposed to trauma, such as neglect or abandonment; physical, sexual or psychological abuse; loss of a loved one; or refugee or war experiences. When these memories are triggered, children feel distressed and unsafe.

Triggers may include words, tone of voice, facial expressions, smells, feelings or postures that are embedded in a child’s mind. And some can cause unexpected reactions in seemingly regular situations. For instance, a child whose abusive parent used to eat oranges may be triggered by the smell of an orange, and this memory may become linked with the abusive experience in the child’s mind. Or a common nickname might have been used by an abuser and can be a trigger.

Often, these memories are not conscious ones, so the child may not understand why they feel distressed or overwhelmed, and yet they respond to the trigger as if they are facing a real threat.

## 3. Be inclusive

When teachers show compassion, warmth and kindness to their

students, students are more likely to develop a strong sense of belonging in the classroom space.

Without that sense of belonging, students might come to see themselves as unworthy of attention and love, which hurts their self-esteem and makes them more vulnerable to the influence of predators.

## 4. Dispel misconceptions and stereotypes

Young white women are often depicted in media as representative of trafficking victims, although women and girls of color experience high rates of trafficking.

Also, women of color who are forced to engage in sexual acts or labor are often stereotyped as deviants and treated with suspicion by officials and law enforcement.

And while boys are less commonly trafficking victims, they are still at risk of being trafficked. In addition, many human trafficking reports do not provide data on non-binary or gender-nonconforming people.

Trafficking education materials work best when they accurately discuss who the perpetrators are. Effective anti-trafficking education teaches kids that traffickers are not just strangers or people belonging to another race or ethnicity. Traffickers are often friendly, charismatic, well-dressed and seemingly wealthy, and they may appear to be kind and

warm. They may also be close family members and caregivers who exploit children in their care.

## 5. Use appropriate touch and tone

Teachers often use touch and tone of voice to build connections with children. But many children who have experienced trauma are sensitive to touch and avoid it. Teachers who learn how to use touch in reassuring and affirming ways – such as an encouraging pat on the back, an occasional handshake, high-five or fist bump – can help build a sense of safety and security in the classroom, building trust with students and making them less likely to fall prey to traffickers. Similarly, using consistent tones of voice that are calm, reassuring and firm can help students’ development, engagement, learning and growth.

Schools can play an important role in helping students learn about and protect themselves from human trafficking. With these five concepts in mind, school leaders will be better prepared to help keep kids safe. (January 2022/The CONVERSATION)

# Finish the FAFSA Announced

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. --- Chattanooga State Community College, in collaboration with the Tennessee Board of Regents, encourages all students currently receiving Tennessee Promise for the 2021-2022 academic year to “Finish the FAFSA,” by submitting their Federal Application for Fed-

eral Student Aid (FAFSA) form for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The FAFSA form must be submitted each year for students to qualify for TN Promise and TN Reconnect. Students who “Finish the FAFSA,” and submit their 2022-2023 FAFSA, can avoid last-minute panic as we approach the final

submission deadline of March 1, 2022.

By filing the FAFSA before the deadline, currently enrolled Tennessee Promise students can continue eligibility in Fall 2022 provided all other criteria are met. In addition, submitting the FAFSA form is required for other financial aid resources provided by Chattanooga State such as scholarships or grants.

For more information or assistance, contact Chattanooga State’s Financial Aid Office at (423) 697-4402.