

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**For More Information:**  
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## Ford, Evanston/Skokie Superintendent, Advocates to Emphasize Need to Improve Teaching of Black History in Schools

**CHICAGO** – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will join Evanston/Skokie Superintendent Dr. Devon Horton and community advocates on Thursday, June 25 at 11 a.m. at Evanston’s Fountain Square to highlight and discuss the need to teach Black history in schools statewide.

“For decades, Black history has been largely ignored or diminished by school curriculum,” Ford said. “It’s critically important that we take steps on a state level to establish guidelines for teaching Black history, and this includes reviewing the textbooks that we use. Black history matters, and by understanding it we can help create a better, shared understanding of the challenges that Black Americans have had to endure and continue to face. If we are to end racism in Illinois we must teach the complete history of Black Americans.”

Ford introduced legislation (House Bill 4954) earlier this year that would require a unit of study of Black history in all public elementary and secondary schools. Such study would focus on the history of the African slave trade and why Black people came to be enslaved, the practice and vestiges of slavery in America, the study of pre-enslavement history of Black people and contributions to medicine, literature, technology and other advancements, and instruction on the socio-economic struggle Black Americans experience collectively in striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the law.

"This history of Black people did not begin with slavery," said Meleika Gardner of We Will. "We built civilizations, kingdoms, contributed to medicine, literature and technology. This bill will help with self-identity, self-knowledge, self-value and race relations for our children. The mis-education of Black people in American and World history must stop now. It is the foundation of systemic racism!"

For more information, please contact [RepFord@LaShawnFord.com](mailto:RepFord@LaShawnFord.com).

**Who:** State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford,  
Evanston/Skokie District 65 Superintendent Dr. Devon Horton,  
Dr. Gilo Kwesi Cornell Logan,  
Evanston Ald. Robin Rue Simmons,  
Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors, NAACP North Shore,  
A representative from Black Lives Matter,  
WE WILL,  
And more

**What:** Press conference on efforts to emphasize Black history instruction in Illinois schools

**When:** Thursday, June 25, 11 a.m.

**Where:** Fountain Square, downtown Evanston (corner of Davis St. and Orrington Ave.)

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