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**Dustin Barnes**

**From:** Carol Jones [REDACTED]  
**To:** Dustin Barnes  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Northwest Rankin Middle School  
**Attachments:**

**Sent:** Mon 2/8/2010 2:06 PM

Dustin, here is the information on the incident at Northwest Rankin Middle School.

The Rankin County School District considers the use of any derogatory word for any race or person to be unacceptable.

The District has investigated an alleged incident of the use of a derogatory word at Northwest Rankin Middle School and has discovered the following:

- The Rankin County School District encourages all teachers to incorporate Black History Month into their lesson plans. The school's principal, an African American, recommended several web sites where the teachers at his school could download suggested lesson plans for their use in the classroom.
- The teacher in question downloaded a lesson plan from one of the suggested sites to include in her lesson plan.
- During the lesson, the teacher read from the script the following statement (entire statement): SAY "Black History Month began in 1926 to honor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln and was called Negro History Week. One of the reasons we celebrate in February is that it is the month the fifteenth amendment was passed, giving black American men the right to vote. Now Black History Month serves to highlight the accomplishments of black Americans and helps everyone see the importance of human rights for all people. Today we are going to focus on one man who spent his life peacefully pointing out the importance of human rights for all – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."
- There was an accusation that an inappropriate word was used; however, the principal investigated the incident and determined that the word in the script was the word that was used.