

# FRIENDS OF LOWELL FOUNDATION CONGRATULATES THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL ON COURT WIN

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On February 25, a federal court ruled against a new admissions system for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia that discriminates against Asian American students. The Friends of Lowell Foundation congratulates the Coalition for TJ and its counsel, the Pacific Legal Foundation, on their successful lawsuit to defend educational opportunity.

The recent attempts to destroy Lowell High School in San Francisco bear many similarities to the concurrent threats to Thomas Jefferson High School. Strikingly, the ruling in the Thomas Jefferson case found that “discriminatory intent” against Asian American students was, at least in part, a motivating factor for changing the admissions policy.

The FOLF favors academic opportunity and opposes racism and discrimination, which is why the FOLF has acted to preserve Lowell against attacks from the San Francisco Board of Education. As in Virginia, the attacks against Lowell have demonstrated discriminatory intent against Asian and Asian American students in San Francisco. The recent overwhelming vote to remove three members of the Board of Education who favored these attacks shows that San Francisco voters wish to preserve Lowell as a beacon of excellence for all academically oriented students.

The FOLF recognizes that many children who have the potential for high academic achievement need more support in the early grades in order to realize their potential. We will back efforts to provide all support — whether originating from public funds, private organizations, or any other source — that can fill educational gaps in the city without discriminating against any child.