

In our country, citizens take pride in being able to freely express their thoughts and values. The greatest platform for our younger citizens is usually their school, where they can connect with other kids and can get help to organize demonstrations. In 1954, schools were ordered by the Supreme Court to desegregate. Yet, during August 1970 in Texas, Longview Independent School District was ordered by the district court to desegregate again due to the failure to desegregate years before. Throughout the years they had made staggering progress, but in December 2014 the school's new behaviors were finally approved by the court. It was a long process, but now students in schools are allowed to support diversity.

On February 1, 2018, Montpelier High School became the first public school in our country to raise the Black Lives Matter, BLM, flag. One year later, South Burlington High School followed suit in honor of Black History Month. During the BLM protests of 2020, the majority of schools in Vermont had also raised a BLM flag in solidarity. In our own school, Missisquoi Valley Union High School, we have created different clubs and raised the BLM flag to help students in showing their support. Now, all around the country, BLM flags are flown at schools.

The BLM movement originated in July 2013, but took off in 2014 when the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was created following the death of Trayvon Martin. The BLM flag was originally created for campaigning against violence and systemic racism towards black people. The BLM flag supports diversity by bringing these problems into light and empowering many people to join the fight against racism in the world. At our school the BLM flag supports diversity. Due to our low levels of minorities at MVU, the flag is a good reminder to all students to be respectful of everyone.