



What Schools Can Learn from the SZA Sephora Incident

By Educator Barnes – June 11, 2019

Recently, singer SZA took to social media to call out Sephora about the treatment she received while shopping there.

Lmao Sandy Sephora location 614 Calabasas called security to make sure I wasn't stealing. We had a long talk. U have a blessed day Sandy

This tweet caught the attention of Sephora, and they tweeted back to the singer.

Hi, SZA. We're sorry to hear about your experience at our Calabasas store and appreciate you bringing this to our attention. We want to let you know we take complaints like this very seriously and are actively working with our teams to address the situation immediately.

Sephora did more than apologize. The stores were shut down for a day for inclusion training. What if all schools were shut down for a day to address inclusion? Too many children in schools across America do not feel included at school, and furthermore, some of them feel targeted by staff and are mistreated. How can a child learn effectively if he or she doesn't feel included or feels mistreated?

Honestly, one day isn't enough. I even question the one-day Sephora training. Some people don't want to accept others who are different from them, so that is one issue. Second, some people want to change, but one day of training is not enough. Last, one day of training is also not enough for people who have unconscious biases.

It is a work in progress that must continue through the year and across future years. This is hard work. We need more than surface level responses. Surface level, band-aid responses will only lead to people reverting back to previous actions. This is not good for society or our schools.