

Toward Excellence in the Education of Black Students: Transforming Learning, Achievement and Well-Being – Pathways & Transitions

What is our goal?

To improve academic and well-being outcomes of Black students in transition to and in high school

- Increase support for students taking academic programming
- Increase graduation rates of Black students
- Improve the sense of belonging, well-being and rates of achievement of Black newcomer/refugee students
- Initiate a professional learning and student engagement focus on six to eight secondary schools and their elementary feeder schools serving high populations of Black students

How will we achieve it?

- Implement and learn from a pilot program supported by the Anti-Racism Directorate to improve outcomes for Black students (June 2019)
- Create and implement a plan to provide ongoing sustained job-embedded learning for relevant staff (including principals, vice-principals, teachers, support staff, coaches, guidance, Student Success teacher, Community Support Workers) to understand anti-Black racism, anti-oppression and its implications on all aspects of teaching and learning as described in Inclusive Design and other anti-racism frameworks (2018 and ongoing)
- Identify, learn from and share evidenced-based practices that have been successful in improving the outcomes of Black students and highlight, on an ongoing basis, excellence among Black students in TDSB. Undertake this work with other research-based educational organizations (January 2019 and ongoing)
- Identify, curate and co-develop with educators and community partners a repertoire of culturally responsive strategies, resources and curriculum supports, home/community partnerships to ensure students see themselves reflected, feel their voices are heard and that families feel heard and included in their child's educational outcomes (ongoing)
- Develop a strategy to expand parent engagement and knowledge of important decisions impacting their child's education such as how to access a range of educational programs e.g., academic pathways, post-secondary options and specialized programs (Fall to March 2019)

How will we know we are successful?

- Evidence of increased numbers, through multi-year tracking, of Black students moving into Academic programming.
- The engagement of Black students will increase because we are honouring voice, experience, identity. School and system practices evolve to be more responsive to the needs of Black students.
- Increased numbers of Black students moving into a variety of post-secondary pathways (including college, universities, apprenticeships).
- Retention of Black newcomer and refugee families in Toronto and parent and student feedback that indicates a sense of belonging, fulfillment and confidence in schools.
- Monitor timetable adjustments mid-year for student and parent informed consent
- Progress will be measured through Student Achievement Data, Student Census Data, School Climate Surveys, student focus groups.