

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

What is our goal?

To create professional learning models that support inclusion and reduce the over-representation of Black students in Special Education programs (specifically Home School Program, Intensive Support Programs and other congregated programs).

How will we achieve it?

- Identify schools where models of inclusion have successfully changed the opportunities and access of Black students to engage in programs in which high expectations for learning contribute to improved well-being. Create opportunities for those schools to coach, document and share the implementation of their models with other schools (Fall 2018)
- Invest in building the capacity of educators to successfully implement inclusion with groups of Black students by
 - deepening their awareness of the principles of anti-racism and culturally relevant pedagogy and with regards to current research in relationship to their practice
 - improving staffs' abilities to use instructional approaches such as Inclusive Design to meet the diverse needs of a range of students (ongoing)
- Create professional learning for Professional Support Services and Special Education staff to reflect how their practice is aligned with the principles of anti-Black racism, and other current research (e.g., Critical Disability studies) and that impacts Black students in Special Education programs (Fall 2018 and ongoing)
- Work with the identified groups of staff and community partners to identify the barriers and strategies to remove the systemic processes that often impede the success and/or cause an over-representation of Black students in Special Education programs (Spring 2019 - ongoing)

How will we know we are successful?

- Evidence of increased numbers, through multi-year tracking, of Black students moving into Academic programming.
- Student learning will be transformed. Students will improve in literacy and math and they will strengthen their global competencies.
- Progress will be measured through Student Achievement Data, Student Census Data, School Climate Surveys, student focus groups.