

Black SEL + Racial Equity



While race is a social construct, the quest for racial equity in the U.S. has been all too real. In education, racial injustices have led to punishment, underfunding, and inequitable outcomes for students of color. However, since the beginning of their time in the U.S., Black communities have found ways to not only resist racist attempts to keep them un(der)educated but use the principles of reSELiience to fight back against racism and fight for equity.

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

Interrogate how Black SEL has been used historically to combat racial injustice

Discuss contemporary racial inequities within education and connect them to disproportionate outcomes for Black students

Vision set for how Black SEL can be used to combat contemporary racial inequities

LET'S UNPACK

- NC leads the nation in suspending and expelling students with disabilities, per capita, than any other state. The majority of these students are Black.
- Black students in NC are underrepresented in Advanced Placement and Honors courses - in some districts 2x or 3x less likely than White students to be enrolled.
- North Carolina is one of several states that propose or pass laws (such as Florida and Oklahoma) that restrict what can be taught to students and make it harder for teachers to include more inclusive elements in their curriculum.

SCENARIO: Imagine you are reading a discipline policy related to a new dress code (hair and clothing restrictions) for a school that you know will negatively impact Black students. Understanding the history of racial inequity, how could we use principles of Black SEL to combat the policy and create a more affirming space for Black students?

