

# EQUITY Insights

THE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESOURCE PUBLICATION



**BUILDING THE PUBLIC WILL**

**JANUARY 2025**



Pictured above are representatives from the Indianapolis Coalition on Educational Equity and guests

## City Wide Round up on Educational Equity in Indianapolis: The Foundation for Change

In November 2024, we gathered at the Broadmoor Country Club for an unforgettable two-day convening. Educators, community leaders, and equity advocates united to confront systemic disparities and create a roadmap for transformative change.

### Key moments included:

**KENOTES THAT INSPIRED:** Dr. Carol Lee and Dr. Kenneth Wesson reminded us of the power of culturally relevant education and the imperative to reimagine what equitable learning looks like.

**RESOURCES THAT EQUIPPED:** Participants gained access to developing tools to address critical challenges, improve academic outcomes, and build equity-centered strategies.

**COMMITMENTS THAT MATTER:** Our collective focus on creating a five-year action plan was energized by robust conversations and community-driven priorities.



Dr. Wesson presents at the City Wide Round up on Educational Equity in Indianapolis

## Looking Ahead: Equity in 2025 & Beyond!

As the year begins, we reflect on the incredible progress made together in 2024 and look ahead with renewed purpose for 2025. Last year was transformative for the Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color (ICESC) and the Indianapolis Coalition on Educational Equity (ICOEE). Your voices, passion, and dedication were at the heart of everything we accomplished. From the success of our November City Wide Round up of Educational Leaders to the ongoing work of shaping education equity priorities for the future, this moment demands continued action, collaboration, and vision. Together, let's build on the momentum in 2025, ensuring every step brings us closer to equity for all children.

*Warm Regards,*

Indianapolis Coalition on Educational Equity



INDIANAPOLIS AFRICAN AMERICAN QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE

THE DATA SPEAKS:

# Analysis of Key Challenges in African American Education

(Survey Insights from November 2024 Conference Attendees)

We listened carefully to attendee feedback to shape the next steps in our equity journey:

**Data Summary:** Participants were asked to rank five critical challenges facing African American education today. Listed below are the priorities ranked in order:

**1 Black Student Achievement** - Emphasized across diverse stakeholders as critical to bridging the achievement gap and improving educational outcomes for African American students.

**2 Social Issues Impacting Education** - Ranked consistently high, highlighting concerns about external factors such as community violence, mental health, and systemic inequities affecting students' ability to succeed in school.

**3 Funding and Resources** - A strong focus on equitable distribution of funding and access to adequate resources, including facilities, technology, and instructional materials.

**4 Curriculum and Instruction** - Recognized as a significant area of concern, with attention to culturally relevant pedagogy and effective teaching strategies tailored to African American students.

**5 Desegregation/Integration of Schools** - While not ranked as frequently as other categories, it remains a critical historical and contemporary issue tied to systemic equity.

## Opportunities for Action

- Focus on High-Priority Areas
- Strategic Allocation of Resources
- Culturally Relevant Curriculum Development
- Collaborative Solutions Committees

# The Work Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

As we move into 2025, our focus remains clear: turning ideas into impactful action.

- **Saturday Academy Pilot Program (January–June 2025):** Launching in the new year, this initiative will strengthen parent and family engagement while fostering culturally responsive education for students.
- **Five-Year Action Plan:** The foundation laid at the November conference will guide our next steps, ensuring every child in Indiana has access to equitable, quality education.
- **Ongoing Collaboration:** We're committed to deepening partnerships with organizations, community leaders, and educators to sustain and expand our impact.

**Remember:** This movement thrives because of you!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars for our next major gathering in **Spring 2025!** – *DETAILS COMING SOON.*



We express our deepest gratitude for your dedication and support. Equity is not a destination but a journey we take together, fueled by shared purpose and collective care.

Let's step into 2025 with boldness, determination, and an unyielding belief in the potential of This movement thrives because of you. every child.

Warm regards and best wishes for the new year,

**Executive Director**  
**Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color**

“Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle..”

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

JOIN THE HISTORICAL JOURNEY TO SELMA!

# 60<sup>TH</sup> Selma BRIDGE CROSSING JUBILEE Celebration!



Indiana Council on Educating  
Students of Color

The Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color is offering students the chance to attend the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Selma Jubilee Bridge Crossing. This historical and educational trip will provide students and parents the opportunity to learn about and reflect on a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

**Applications are available NOW!**

If you're interested in having your student participate, don't miss out!



**MARCH 7 - 9, 2025**

Bus Departs: 4:30am, Mar. 7 | Bus Returns 11:00pm, Mar. 9

**OPEN TO GRADES 6-12**

**Cost: ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

*(Hurry space is limited!!)*

In Collaboration with:

100 Black Women  
of Indianapolis



Contact: Marcel Bonds | (317) 545-1745

Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School | 3960 Meadows Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205

*This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to be part of a legacy of change, equality, and empowerment!*



Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color

## The Core Values of the Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color

ICESC's community-based approach focuses on the core values of The National Council On Educating Black Children: "The Village Takes Responsibility." They are:

- 1 All Stakeholders in a community must highly value academic achievement and be involved in improving teaching and learning.
- 2 All Stakeholders have an invested wealth in the social, cultural and intellectual development of all children, but especially those children that historically are on the bottom of the educational realm.
- 3 All Stakeholders must participate in implementing the research that provides evidence to support the growth in healthy development and academic achievement of historically underserved populations.
- 4 All Stakeholders must examine the issues, practices, policies, and conditions in their communities that accelerate or impede the academic performance of African American children.
- 5 Accountability must be community driven, with Stakeholders partnering with academicians and experts in the education of African American children, as well as with educators, and school officials in reviewing and monitoring the performance and outcomes of public and charter schools that receive local, state, and federal tax dollars. Stakeholders must also be primary partners in crafting solutions for their failing and under performing schools.

## Partnering for Success with ICESC

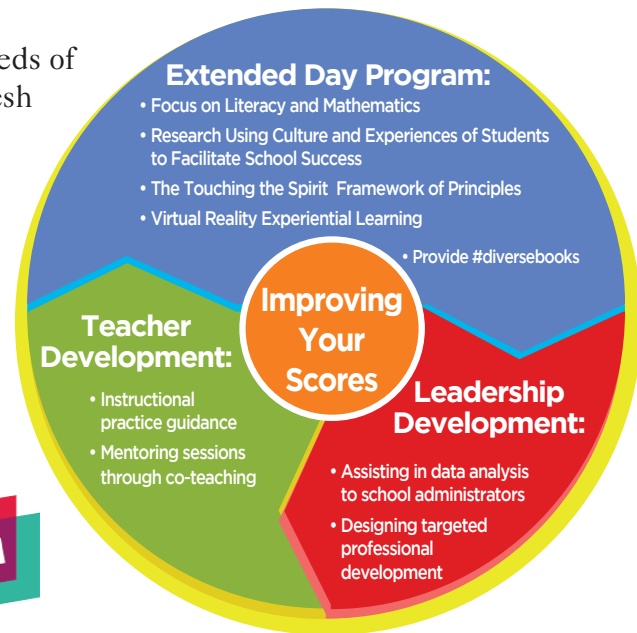
### Who We Are:

Indiana Council on Educating Students of Color (ICESC) is an Indiana based organization dedicated to improving reading, writing and mathematics for a diverse student body.

The focus of ICESC is to collaborate with schools and districts to design and operate Extended-Day programs. Our programs meet the needs of the growing number of academically under-performing students of color across the state, especially those from marginalized families.

### Partnership Benefits:

- Multiple years of successful collaboration with Indiana school districts and individual schools;
- Academic achievement for African American and other students of color;
- Innovative work with researched-based and culturally-centered teaching strategies;
- Ability to meet the needs of urban educators for fresh approaches and the infusion of new ideas;
- Leadership coaching for both experienced and aspiring school principals.



**JOIN THE ICESC** in our campaign to improve student attendance and educational outcomes. Attend our upcoming community forums, volunteer in our mentorship programs, and advocate for policies that support our children's academic success. Together, we can build a brighter future for our students and our community.