

Parent Engagement & Involvement: African American Parents of K-8 Children

Program Description

The largest academic achievement gap in the U.S. is between African American and White students. Parental engagement and involvement are two key factors that influence academic success and may help reduce the opportunity gap; however, traditional definitions and strategies used remain highly racially biased. It's vitally important to expand the definitions of parental engagement and involvement. In addition, school staff need to be equipped to address barriers and enhance facilitators of parental engagement and involvement among African American parents of elementary and middle school students.

The workshop will provide helpful themes of new definitions of parent engagement and parent involvement. During the training, the presenter will facilitate interactive exercises for professionals who support African American children and caregivers. Attendees will develop effective strategies for school policies and practices.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the influence of ecological, intergenerational and intersectionality theories.
2. Examine the evolved definitions of parental engagement and involvement.
3. Identify common barriers and facilitators to increase parent engagement.
4. Integrate strategies to increase parent engagement and involvement efforts in schools.

Target Audience

This program is intended for school administrators, social workers, counselors, teachers, service providers, and clinicians.

Contact Hours

3.0 credit hours

Program Agenda

9 AM to 10:30 AM:

Overview of Theories and Definitions of Parental Engagement & Involvement

10:30 AM to 10:45 PM:

Break

10:45 AM to 12:15 PM:

Barriers & Facilitators and Integration of Engagement Strategies

Tauchiana Williams, DSW, is a clinical associate professor and director of the Advanced Standing MSW Program of UNC Chapel Hill. She is the coordinator of the North Carolina School Social Work License program. Her research areas include Black

parent engagement and involvement with a focus on barriers and facilitators that impact student success. Dr. Williams serves as the Lead Interventionist for the Substance Use Prevention and Education Research (SUPER) program funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She is a licensed clinical social worker whose practice areas include child and adolescent mental health, school social work, substance use, and trauma. She was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to serve on the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board where she holds the office of secretary/treasurer. Tauchiana has received the Dean's Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award over several years and served on the Council on Social Work Education's Anti-Racism Task Force in 2020.