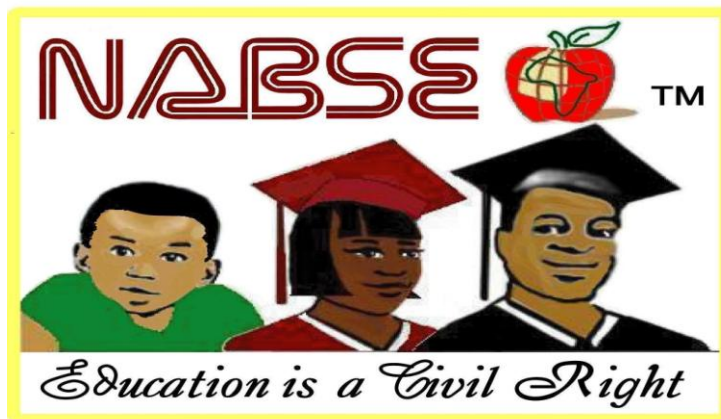


NABSE



## Chronology of Initiatives in Implementing the Education as a Civil Right Plan

2007~2009



National Alliance of Black School Educators

310 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C. 20003

800.221.2654

202.608.6310

[www.nabse.org](http://www.nabse.org)

## ~ Preamble ~

Education Is a Civil Right! I truly believe in my heart and soul that we as leaders must send a strong message to President Obama, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and other policy makers that proactive change is inevitable if Education is really the Civil Right Issue of the 21st Century.

In order to achieve exemplary status, students need qualitative teachers, robust learning materials, and a proactive and safe learning environment. Unfortunately, too many of our lower-income students attend schools that are not resourceful, and do not provide opportunities for educational growth.

Inequities in the distribution of resources are compounded by measures that levy high-stakes penalties against schools that fail to meet student achievement goals. This approach is not fair to schools that do not have educational supplies, resources, and equitable learning opportunities.

States and districts must be encouraged to invest in the equitable distribution of resources if we are to build a quality learning environment that promotes high academic achievement for all students.

The National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) declared that, “Education Is a Civil Right”. As individuals and collectively, we must make legislators, school board governing agents, superintendents, teachers, parents and other decision makers aware of the discrepancies and develop action plans for change.

We remain focused, optimistic and strong as we venture to the next chapter of developing best practices using specific criteria, and making the world aware of this issue. Specific activities and actions are a part of this publication.

We remain committed,

Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Ed.D.  
*President, National Alliance of Black School Educators*



## **Education Is a Civil Right Task Force**

**Chairman:** Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones, Past President

**Co-Chairman:** Dr. Patricia Ackerman, Past President

**Co-Chairman:** Mr. Dwight Bonds

**Ex-Officio:** Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill, President, NABSE

**Ex-Officio:** Mr. Quentin Lawson, Executive Director

**Members:** Dr. Emma Epps  
Ms. Cresynthia Devereaux  
Dr. Anthony Fears  
Dr. Beverly Gibson  
Dr. Mary Grant  
Ms. Bessie Harris  
Ms. Edna Herring  
Ms. Jennifer R. Hockenhull  
Dr. Betty Howell Gray  
Dr. Charlie Mae Knight  
Ms. Gloria F. Noland  
Dr. Rogers Onick  
Dr. Teresa Pope  
Ms. Paulette Thomas  
Dr. Vashti Washington  
Dr. Eugene White  
Dr. James Williams

## **EDUCATION IS A CIVIL RIGHT**

### **Background**

The Educational Civil Rights Agenda (ECR) is an initiative designed to address the historic national underachievement of African American students in public schools that remains a glaring inequality and denial of basic educational justice as a civil right. This initiative was designed to counteract and reverse the disparities and inequities in the public education system; to bring about intended and measurable improvements in our local school districts; and eventually expand to county, state and national influence.

In February 2006, the Los Angeles County Alliance of Black School Educators, an affiliate of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), convened a group of professional educators, elected officials, local school board members, community representatives and civic leaders in the Southern California area to discuss how to improve educational outcomes for African American students in local public schools. The group continued to meet regularly and, in July 2006, formed the Education is a Civil Right Committee. In October 2006, the Committee sponsored a forum, featuring Bill Cosby as keynote speaker. Dr. George McKenna was very instrumental in working with educators in Los Angeles County. The meeting was attended by more than two thousand parents, teachers, students and others.

In April 2007, the Committee drafted a formal document, "A Black Educational Civil Rights Agenda," designed to provide strategies and activities for use in school districts serving a significant population of African American students. In June 2007, with the help of original sponsors, Achieve3000 and the Pearson Foundation, the Committee held a public forum with Jack O'Connell, the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction to review the Agenda and a formal Planning Session in August to plan for implementation. The Education is a Civil Right Organizing Committee continues to meet and has garnered significant attention and support for its efforts in Southern California. Mr. Dwight Bonds, Executive Director of the California Alliance of Black School Educators, facilitated much of the work in California.

One of the Committee's goals is to stimulate discussion, collaborations and action on behalf of African American students throughout the nation. To this end, it approached the National Alliance of Black School Educators, which has assumed responsibility for implementing a similar initiative on a national level. The national initiative was launched in November 2007 at NABSE's 35th Annual Conference, held in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Emma Epps, Immediate Past President, declared in a special town meeting, "Education is a Civil Right." Educator, author and activist, Dr. Bill Cosby gave a keynote speech in which he discussed the issues facing African American children in the nation's public schools and officially announced the Education is a Civil Rights Initiative in partnership with the Pearson Foundation and Achieve3000. The Pearson Foundation provided support for a promotional video that presents a cross-section of African American leaders expressing their thoughts and support for the initiative. NABSE President Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill has led the initiative with boldness, strong

conviction and perseverance from 2007-2009. She has traveled throughout the United States and Canada speaking to various affiliates, organizations and faith-based groups about our Education is a Civil Right Agenda.

NABSE, with continued support from the Pearson Foundation and Achieve3000, has hosted representatives from national education organizations such as the National School Board Association, the National Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers. At the meetings, NABSE staff described the Initiative, solicited their support and asked for formal letters of endorsement. Since that time, the organization has received more than 70 letters of endorsement for the Initiative. Letters have been received from the National School Board Association; Derek Black, Education Law Professor at Harvard Law School; five members of the Congressional Black Caucus; and several other organizations. NABSE has also asked state superintendents to assign a cabinet-level person to serve as state liaison for the Initiative. To date, favorable responses have been received from State Superintendents from California, Virginia, Texas, Kentucky and Florida.

NABSE also commissioned a paper, ***Education is a Civil Right***, written by Derek Black, Harvard Law School Professor, that discusses the legal foundation for education as a civil or fundamental right in the United States and the implications for African American students. In July 2008, NABSE submitted written testimony on Education as a Civil Right to the Committee on Education & Labor, U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Goals of ECR Initiative**

African Americans in communities across the country consistently identify public education as one of their primary concerns, yet there are few community-based organizations attempting to mobilize members of the Black community to work toward improving student achievement at the local level.

The primary focus of NABSE's **Education is a Civil Right** initiative is to raise awareness and mobilize the public, and especially members of the African American community, to more actively advocate for strategies that will result in improved academic achievement for African American students.

### **The Education Is a Civil Right initiative has as its goals to:**

- Foster and develop through dialogue, workshops, political and civil action, and other appropriate means, an awareness of the consequences of educational underachievement in every corner of society;
- Initiate activities that will directly address the educational disparities and inequities faced by African American students and families, and bring about intended and measurable improvements in our public school systems; and

- Develop the talents, skills and leadership within our communities that can use their collective expertise and knowledge to continuously monitor, review and effect needed changes relative to the educational civil rights of the students and families in all parts of our society. To provide strategies and activities for use in school districts serving a significant population of African American students.



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS**

**EDUCATION IS A CIVIL RIGHT RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on November 22, 2007 the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) declared Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE declares that education is not just a privilege, but a birth right, as well as an entitlement; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country are encouraged to adopt a “zero tolerance” policy towards student failure, dropouts, expulsion and illiteracy; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE has established February 12, 2009 as Education is a Civil Right Participation Day; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country are requested to engage in a series of activities related to Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, educators are encouraged to visit the NABSE web site at [www.nabse.org](http://www.nabse.org) to learn more about NABSE and Education is a Civil Right; and

This Resolution is developed by the National Alliance of Black School Educators on the twenty-second day of December, in the year two thousand and eight, and urges all school districts to support.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill, President**  
December 22, 2008

**Quentin Lawson, Executive Director**  
December 22, 2008

The NABSE Board of Directors adopted and approved every second Thursday in February as “Education Is a Civil Right Day.”



## **“Education Is A Civil Right Day”**

The NABSE Board of Directors, in December 2008, declared each second Thursday in February as “Education is a Civil Right Day”. Several school districts honored this proclamation by conducting an activity at the school, community and/or school board level. We have included summaries of the 2009 activities on the web for your review as you plan for 2010. We are urging school districts to conduct activities again this year and send the National office an abstract for archiving.

### **2009 ECR REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES/SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

#### **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

#### **METROPOLITAN DETROIT ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS MDABSE**

##### **Area of Concentration for this project:**

Education is a Civil Right Affiliate Activities

##### **Project Description:**

The following activities were carried out in various schools throughout the Metropolitan Detroit area. They were utilized at schools where members of MDABSE and NABSE are employed.

##### **THEME: Education is a Civil Right**

1. Retirees went into schools to dialogue on the topic, Education is Your Civil Right
2. Classroom activities focused on African American leaders past and present
3. Teachers concentrated on activities related to students’ heritage
4. Teachers required that students write reports and make oral presentations on their own connection to Education is a Civil Right
5. A school Drama Club performed a play on “Do You Know Your Black History?” and “How Will You Become Successful to Make the Legacy Stay Alive?”
6. Education is a Civil Right was the focus of a general membership meeting, which consisted of a guest speaker discussing what we need to teach our children, how they can become more responsible in getting their education, and how they can become more prepared for college/university.
7. MDABSE is preparing for the 2010 Education Is a Civil Right Participation Day.
8. The Metropolitan Detroit Alliance of Black School Educators gave away three \$500 scholarships to students that wrote essays about education and attaining a quality education.

9. The Metropolitan Detroit Alliance of Black School Educators hosted a meeting where Marygrove and Teachscape educators presented curricula that enhance grade-level content expectations and standards.
10. NABSE President Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill hosted a public forum at the Hotel St. Regis in Detroit and Flint to discuss the 5 Focus Point areas of Education is a Civil Right. It was requested that each superintendent, principal, instructional leader, paraprofessional, business partner, etc. keep the five points in the forefront and continue to push the Education Is a Civil Right message.

Submitted by: Bessie Harris

President, Metropolitan Detroit Alliance of Black School Educators

## **MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

### **MILWAUKEE, WI - MMABSE**

**Contact Person:** Dr. Rogers E. Onick

**Address:** 1425 North Cass Street

**City:** Milwaukee      **State:** WI      **Zip:** 53202

**Phone:** 414-276-6808

**E-mail:** [aonegemini@aol.com](mailto:aonegemini@aol.com)

#### **PART I:**

Please place a check next to the item(s) that best describe(s) initiative(s) in the appropriate focus area(s) actually implemented by your affiliate or school district for the period 2007-2009.

#### **Focus Area 1: Educational policies and practices that advance and promote excellence for all African American students**

- Legislation preventing unprepared or ineffective teachers and administrators
- Professional development for school staff
- Teacher Training Academy**
- Legal support for site monitoring of instruction
- Provided adequate resources for schools
- Restructuring and/or Reconstitution of underachieving schools
- Legislation requiring support for the language needs of students
- Legislation for dual language for all students
- Legislation requiring administrative training/development for all school leaders (teacher leaders, principals and other administrators)
- Compilation and use of data to support specific areas of needs**
- Adopted innovative curricular materials
- Researched funding formulas
- Developed computer literacy programs
- Beautified school campuses

### **Focus Area 2: High School graduation rates**

- Established drop-out prevention activities and programs at middle and high schools
- Established college/university programs/activities for all students
- Established a speakers' bureau for community members to support schools
- Established career technical educational classes

### **Focus Area 3: Educational progress and status of African American males and females**

- Established public focus on status of Black male students and adults
- Established "gender separate" classes
- Piloted support program for targeted male students through centralized support
- Established future teacher clubs/activities, YES Club, etc.
- Piloted support program for targeted female students through centralized support
- Established alternatives to suspensions
- Established program that targeted specific needs of male and/or female students***
- Researched causes of African American overrepresentation in remedial and special education classes
- Used researched-based curricular materials and instructional practices
- Held special gender-specific assemblies
- Implemented positive intercultural programs

### **Focus Area 4: Support for parents and families of underachieving African American students**

- Establish parent support systems in school(s)***
- Provided parenting workshops***
- Recruited churches, community organization and other agencies to collaborate with schools***
- Lobbied for legislation and other legal interventions to require parental response in schools
- Helped to establish/support community counseling centers
- Supported parent/family outreach efforts
- Created parent room in school
- Developed an independent Black parent union
- Developed an assessment instrument for parents to evaluate schools
- Provided education and support for enhancing nutrition in African American families

### **PART II: Project Descriptions**

Use the following form to report your activity/activities. The activity must match the item(s) checked in Part 1:

Name of Affiliate: Metro Milwaukee ABSE

I. Title of Initiative: **Education Is a Civil Rights Forum**

II. Date of Initiative: September 26, 2009

III. Number of Participants 100

**Area of Concentration for this project:**

- Focus Area 1
- Focus Area 2
- Focus Area 3
- Focus Area 4
- Focus Area 5
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description (maximum of 50 words): The event will raise public awareness of NABSE's agenda, Education Is a Civil Right, and continue to identify and implement effective strategies to close achievement gaps in the Milwaukee Public Schools. The event is designed to sustain collaboration among MMABSE, parents, and faith-based representatives.**

Title of Initiative: Excel to Fly: 2009 MMABSE Education Summit

Date of Initiative: March 25, 2009

Number of Participants: 258

**Area of Concentration for this project:**

- Focus Area 1
- Focus Area 2
- Focus Area 3
- Focus Area 4
- Focus Area 5
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description (maximum of 50 words): The event featured workshops to improve classroom instruction. Areas of focus: 1) To continue to work collaboratively with the various recipients of the NEA Foundation grant; 2) To continue to create and implement programs that support closing the achievement gaps; 3) To document and collect quantitative and/or qualitative data to show the impact of MMABSE's efforts to close the achievement gaps**

Name of Initiative: MMABSE/Delta Sigma Theta Educational Symposium

Date of Initiative: November 8, 2008

Number of Participants: 125

Area of Concentration for this project:

- X Focus Area 1
- Focus Area 2
- X Focus Area 3

Project Description (maximum of 50 words): The event, held at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, focused on three areas: 1) To inform Milwaukee and surrounding communities of the state of education in the Milwaukee Public Schools; 2) To develop strategies that the audience could implement individually to effect positive change in schools; 3) To partner with community organizations to bring voice and accountability to educational services that affect Black students

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

**IABSE/INDIANAPOLIS, IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**CRISPUS ATTUCKS CENTER**

**OVERVIEW / MISSION**

**The Crispus Attucks Center** comprises the *IPS Office of Multicultural Education* (OME) and the *Crispus Attucks Museum*. The OME opened in 1987 and the Museum, in 1998. The Center, under the auspices of the Indianapolis Public Schools, is located on the campus of Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, 1140 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street in Indianapolis, IN.

Believing that Education is a Civil Right, the **mission** of the Center is to demonstrate **excellence, scholarship, respect and courage** by acting as a catalyst of knowledge, skills and resources for:

- The transformation of the educational environment of the school to make it academically and culturally compatible with diverse cultures, learning styles and behavior styles of all learners (as per requirements of the State Law on Cultural Competence);
- The study and celebration of diversity and multicultural education in homes, schools, colleges and universities, churches, organizations, businesses, government and community.
- The support of diversity through dialogue, public programs, school/community events and carefully designed staff development workshops, conferences and seminars.

**Additionally, the Center's mission is to improve academic achievement by helping educators, parents and significant others in a child's life to understand:**

- The process of infusing/embedding school curriculum, textbooks and materials with cultural concepts, issues and themes from diverse perspectives, and in particular, children of color, children in poverty and other disenfranchised groups;

- The strategies for equipping students with survival skills that help them develop non-violent strategies to cope with the omnipresence of racism, sexism, other *isms* and *phobias* that are inherent in a society that does not look kindly upon them;
- The instructional practices for centering all students in their own culture by combining the cultural orientation of the child with the instructional strategies of the school.

### ***IPS Policy on Multicultural Education***

The IPS Board of School Commissioners approved a policy on the teaching of Black History in 1979. In 1996, the policy was revised by the Office of Multicultural Education to be more reflective of the diverse groups represented in the IPS student population and the society-at-large. The most recent revision is dated December 5, 2005. Noncompliance is not an option.

### **State Law on Cultural Competence in Educational Environments**

House Bill 1308 was signed into law by the Governor of Indiana. The law became effective July 1, 2004. The director of this office lobbied for the bill and was present when it was signed by the Governor of Indiana. This much-needed legislation defines cultural competency and requires school districts and accredited teacher training institutions to provide authentic courses, methods, strategies, policies, practices and on-going professional development designed to develop teachers who can effectively work in culturally diverse school settings, hold high expectations of all students and increase academic achievement. Noncompliance is not an option.

### **Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)**

The Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), developed by Dr. Mitchell Hammer, is administered by the Office of Multicultural Education. It is a 50-item, theory-based, paper-and-pencil instrument that measures intercultural sensitivity. The IDI measures an individual's (or group's) fundamental worldview orientation to cultural difference, and thus the individual's or group's capacity for intercultural competence.

### **The Diversity Cadre**

The Diversity Cadre is a school team composed of staff members (licensed and support) and parents. They are the critical link between the OME and the school district site. They serve as on-site experts and meet with the staff of OME every two months. Duties and responsibilities of Cadre members include: receiving and distributing information; attending and promoting cultural activities, events and workshops; scheduling cultural development workshops for their school; reporting problem areas that are obstacles to achieving equity for all students; and providing leadership in achieving an educational atmosphere that reflects and responds to the needs of a diverse student population.

### **Annual Conference**

The IPS Conference on Infusion of Culture and History into School Content is an annual professional development experience that was first held in 1987 when the Office opened. The purpose of the conference is to equip educators, parents, students and community residents with the strategies, the skills and the will to create and sustain learning environments that promote high academic achievement within the context of the cultural orientation of the child.

### **Television Show**

The Office of Multicultural Education sponsors the monthly television program, *Multicultural Points and Perspectives*. The program highlights cultural events in the city and presents perspectives from a variety of diverse voices. The executive producer and host is Pat Payne, director of the Center. It is taped every third Tuesday, televised by the IPS Center for Telecommunications and aired on Comcast and Time Warner Cable three times weekly .

### ***The Crispus Attucks Museum***

The Museum, located on the campus of Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, opened in May 1998 to give honor and recognition to the historic Crispus Attucks High School and its students. It is an exciting and provocative history museum that focuses on the legacy of the school. As an educational facility, the museum celebrates the outstanding contributions made by African Americans through both guided and self-guided tours. It documents the museum adventure with research, exhibits and demonstrations.

The museum presents insight into the rich and valuable culture that is the foundation on which the world was built. The museum is open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm and Saturday; noon-5pm. Tours are designed for pre-school age through adult and are wheelchair accessible. The admission charge is minimal, and IPS students and personnel are exempt. The Indianapolis Public Schools is proud to be one of the few school districts in the country with a museum that is connected to school curriculum and supports, promotes, celebrates and embraces cultural competence.

**Pat Payne, Director**

**Robert Chester, Curator, Crispus Attucks Museum**

**Michael Kwame Itoka, Assistant to the Curator**

**Annmarie Byers, Office/Financial Manager**

**Superintendent – Dr. Eugene White**

**Supervisor - Dr. Willie Giles, Deputy Superintendent**

**1140 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street; Indianapolis, IN 46202**

**(317) 226-2430**

**Fax: 226-4611**

**E-Mail: [paynep@ips.k12.in.us](mailto:paynep@ips.k12.in.us)**

## **BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

### **BIRMINGHAM, AL - NABSE-BA**

**The National Alliance of Black School Educators – Birmingham Affiliate  
2009 – 2010 Initiatives**

**Reading Strategies Forum for Education Professionals (October 2009, January 2010)**

The Reading Strategies Forum will consist of three sessions during which reading coaches, reading interventionist, classroom teachers and school administrators will share strategies found effective with struggling students.

### Scheduled Events

Forum 1: October 6, 2009

Forum 2: December 1, 2009

Forum 3: January 5, 2010

Chairperson – Sherrell Embry

### **College Readiness Campaign (November 2009 - November 2010)**

The College Readiness Campaign is a partnership between NABSE-Birmingham Affiliate and Ameer's Positive Image Inc. The program will engage high school juniors and seniors in planning activities designed to prepare them to earn and apply for college scholarships.

The program will:

- Organize scholarship criteria from a network of regional institutions/organizations into a central data base.
- Conduct academic reviews of participating students.
- Provide mentoring and tutoring in areas of need.
- Track participants for twelve months.

### Scheduled Events

November 3, 2009

Kickoff Meeting and Program Orientation

Program will Travel to one recreation center or high school each month

Chairperson – Arthurine Burton

### **"I'm Going To College" Program (December 2009 - Ongoing)**

This program is designed to promote college among urban African American students. NABSE-BA will work with local colleges and universities plan visits by athletic, theatrical, service and other organizations to Birmingham-area elementary schools to promote literacy and college attendance.

### **Action Step 1**

NABSE-BA will develop and publish a list of contact organizations for distribution to school administrators and counselors.

Completion Deadline: November 17, 2009

Distribution Deadline: December 4, 2009

## **Action Step 2**

NABSE-BA will publish a quarterly student newsletter promoting college to elementary aged students.

Completion Deadline: January 7, 2010

Distribution Deadline: February 10, 2010

Chairperson – Steve Brown

## **Improving Instruction for Autistic Children Initiative (September 2009 – June 2010)**

This program is designed to increase academic opportunities for autistic children by bringing focus to instructional strategies and expectations that shape their educational experience. It is also a goal of this program to increase knowledge in the urban community of early intervention and its positive impact on the autistic child.

### **Scheduled Events**

September 4, 2009

Training in behavioral and instructional techniques for teaching autistic children

Location: Council Elementary School – Birmingham, Al.

The program is coordinated by NABSE-BA member Joel Smith, for teachers of autistic children in the Birmingham City School System. Facilitators of the training were obtained through a partnership with a local health services agency. The workshop is a direct result of our goal to be proactive in our endeavors and fill voids where needed. Towards our goal of improving instruction for autistic children, we saw a need for training among teachers in the district.

Chairperson – Joel Smith

Inaugural Meeting of the National Alliance of Black School Educators Birmingham Affiliate

Kick Off of Our Million Dollar Scholarship Drive

February 13, 2009 Watch an Educational Program Day

Watch an educational program with your child and discuss the content

## **SEATTLE WASHINGTON**

### **VI. SEATTLE, WA – SABSE**

#### **Education Is a Civil Right Initiative**

**Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators  
P.O. Box 22035  
Seattle, WA 98006**

**Dr. Betty Howell Gray, President  
Questions: 425.443.4224**

**Name of Affiliate:** Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators

**Title of Initiative: Building A New Civil Rights Agenda to Ensure Effective Learning for all students and accountability for everyone**

**Date of Initiative:** October 10-11, 2008    **Number of Participants:** 225

Area of Concentration for this project: 1, 3, 4

**Focus Area I – Educational policies and practices that advance and promote excellence for all African American students**

Project Description: This Education Summit focused on strategies, interventions, programs, and resources necessary for improving the quality of education for underachieving students, and the research that validates the Rigor and Relevance in Teaching and Learning. At this conference, we also developed a Community Action Plan working in partnership with Seattle Public Schools Equity and Race Relations Department. The feedback revealed that we must maximize principals' visibility and accessibility to students and staff which can be done by scheduled classroom walkthroughs and assessments. The following workshops were held during the remainder of the school year to fully implement this initiative: Principles to Encourage Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies for Struggling Students, and Student-Centered Learning. Please refer to [sabseonline.org](http://sabseonline.org) for more information on the Community Action Plan developed at this two-day Education Summit focusing on Education is a Civil Right.

**Title of Initiative: “Education is a Civil Right” – Closing the Achievement Gap**

**Date of Initiative: March 3, 2009**

**Number of Participants: 150**

**Focus Area I – Educational Policies and practices that advance and promote excellence for all African American students.**

Focus Area I, 2, 3, 4

Project Description: For the last 10 years, SABSE has been in the forefront of expanding educational opportunities for all children and has as its belief that children should be the nation's top priority. We scheduled another “Education is a Civil Right” Workshop, not to celebrate, but to rededicate ourselves to the unfinished business of making education the number one

priority...not mere rhetoric. We feel strongly that we must provide a quality education to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, limited-English speaking, disabled, or family circumstance. SABSE's workshops continue to focus on closing the achievement Gap. Workshop topics to develop our theme, "Education is a Civil Right," began with an analysis of data on the progress of African American students. Other topics included Successful Programs Needed to Address Academic Success for African American Students, Laws and Policies Affecting African American Students, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning, and State and Community Action Plans – Strategies for Inclusion. For more information, check SABSE's website: [www.sabseonline.org](http://www.sabseonline.org)

**Title of Initiative: "Education is a Civil Right" Participation Day!**

Date of Initiative: February 12, 2009

Number of participants: 10,000

Area of Concentration for this project: 1, 3 and 4

This day was held in conjunction with Black History Month. Seattle Public Schools were actively involved by declaring "Education is a Civil Right." Through the efforts of SABSE and ongoing presentations to the Board of Directors, Seattle School Board adopted a policy in 2003 to designate the second Monday in February as National African American Parent Involvement Day. SABSE sent out flyers to all school districts in the State of Washington. The African American Parent Involvement Day is now observed in most school districts with a high number of African American students.

Many schools had speakers and essay writing contests about Education as a Civil Right, and the local media was invited to attend. Superintendents, school board members, principals, teachers, counselors, students and parents participated in this ERC Participation Day.

**Project Description**

Title of Initiative: Volunteers Needed to Partner with Seattle Schools

Date of Initiative: October 12, 2007 to Present

Number of Participants: 25

Area of Concentration for this project: Focus Area 4

**Project Description:**

The purpose of this initiative is to seek mentors from churches and community organizations to serve as mentors in schools. We continue to implement the program where church members and representatives from various organizations donate at least 1-2 days a month for visibility in schools during school hours. This is an effort to build connections between schools and communities for the purpose of improving student achievement in various high schools. We continue to urge pastors and their members to attend our professional workshops to become more

connected to schools. A special call was made to churches, businesses, and social organizations to get involved with schools to provide academic, social, and emotional support to students' educational development.

### **Project Description**

Title of Initiative: Conference for Parents, Families, Students and Community

Date of Initiative: September 19, 2009

Number of Participants Projected: 300

Area of Concentration for this project: 4

### **Project Description:**

Essential Questions for the Conference: How do we grow to achieve academic excellence?

What are the key ingredients for self growth in this process? Session Topics for Conference:

Your Child's Performance in school; Graduation Requirements; Preparation for College; Improving Success of Students in the Educational System and Assessments. These workshops will provide parents and students with solutions for change and answers to all of the above concerns and more.

**Note: All conferences and workshops are sponsored by SABSE in collaboration with the Seattle Public Schools and the Family Engagement Department.**

## **SEATTLE ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS (SABSE)**

**In Collaboration with Seattle Public Schools**

*SABSE continues to support efforts in making sure equitable educational opportunities are provided for African American and all other students.*

~ ~ ~

*You are cordially invited to attend "Education is a Civil Right" Workshop  
scheduled on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. –4:30 p.m.  
At Cleveland High School Auditorium – 5511 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98118 - 206.252.7800 or 425.643.7696  
Mark your calendar now!*

### **Education is a Civil Right Workshop**

"Black children are proxy for what ails American education in general. And so, as we fashion solutions which help Black children, we fashion solutions which help all children."

(The Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins, Founder / National Council on Educating Black Children)

For the last 10 years, SABSE has been in the forefront of expanding educational opportunities for all our children and has held the belief that children should be the nation's top priority.

We have scheduled another workshop, not to celebrate, but to rededicate ourselves to the unfinished business of making education the number one priority....not mere rhetoric. We must provide a quality education to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, limited-English speaking, disabled, or family circumstance.

**School Teams including principals, teachers and assistants seeking more strategies in working with struggling students are encouraged to attend. School board members, superintendents, central office staff, elected officials, parents, ministers, and community leaders are also invited to attend.**

**Topics:**

**Speaker: Diana Daniels, President of National Council on Educating Black Children**

- **Successful Literacy Programs & National Blueprint for Educating Black Children**
- **What is culturally responsive teaching? What does it look like and how is it assessed?**
- **Development of a Culturally-Relevant School Action Plan**
- **A Plan to Close the Achievement Gap for African American Students, HB 2722 Advisory Representatives**

**NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA**

**NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA – NSABSE**

On November 22, 2007 the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) declared Education is a Civil Right establishing an international Black Educational Civil Rights agenda.

Jacqueline Smith-Herriott, Affiliate Council President  
REQUESTS THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE

At a Reception

Sunday, June 14, 2009

With the members of the

Nova Scotia Alliance

of Black School Educators (NSABSE)

A reception to officially honour the work of Reverend Jesse Jackson, a world leader in Civil Rights, who lives the values we espouse – as a lifelong activist and strong proponent of Civil Rights.

~ Prince George Hotel ~

Windsor Room

1725 Market Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3N9

Sunday, June 14, 2009

8:30pm – 10:30pm

Please plan to arrive no later than 8:20 pm!  
Invitation is for you and a guest!!

**NSABSE Mission:** To enhance and facilitate the education of students of African descent throughout Nova Scotia and North America.

**NABSE Mission:** To enhance and facilitate the education of students of African descent throughout the nation (North America) and the world.

## **Rev. Jesse Jackson's visit to province impresses many.**

**Among those at a meet and greet sponsored by the Nova Scotia Alliance of Black School Educators (NSABSE) were Lana Cromwell with international relations NSABSE, Corporal Craig Smith, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Lieutenant Wesley Mackay, a regional cadet training officer with the Canadian Navy. ADAMS PHOTOGRAPHY**

**NovaNewsNow.com**

**Craig Smith likens Rev. Jesse Jackson's visit to Nova Scotia last week as both a rock star moment and the chance to interact with living, breathing, walking history.**

**"It was probably the first person that I've been around where the moment he stepped into the room it was like a rock star had come in," he says. "People were screaming, hollering and whistling. It was amazing."**

**Smith, who is a corporal with the RCMP's Community Aboriginal and Diversity Policing Unit in Halifax, and who used to be stationed at the Yarmouth RCMP town detachment, says last week's visit in the Halifax region by the civil rights activist was quite exciting.**

**Smith is passionate about black history. He has authored books on the subject and does all he can to promote this province's black history, dating back from 1782 to the present day. So when he was asked to present his two books – You Better Be White By 6 A.M., a book chronicling the African-Canadian experience in the RCMP, and his more recent book, the Ultimate African Heritage Quiz Maritime Edition – to Rev. Jackson, he was thrilled.**

**When he was asked to do RCMP Red Serge duty he was honored. But then when he was asked to be Rev. Jackson's official escort Smith was over the**

**moon.**

**“It was really cool to sit down with a piece of living history and be able to talk with him and converse with him,” says Smith, referring to Rev. Jackson’s civil rights movement work through the decades, which included working alongside of Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960s. Smith also recalls watching Rev. Jackson’s U.S. presidential bid in 1988.**

**While in Nova Scotia, Rev Jackson was the guest speaker at the 60th anniversary celebration of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council.**

**He is also hoping to see an affiliate chapter of his Rainbow PUSH Coalition – an organization that pushes for social change – to be formed in this province.**

**Lana Cromwell, the international representative for the Nova Scotia Alliance of Black School Educators – the organization that helped to facilitate Rev. Jackson’s outreach into the broader community while he was in Nova Scotia, and also hosted a reception for Rev. Jackson – says forming a chapter here is definitely in the works. Cromwell, who has ties to the Weymouth area, also works with Rev. Jackson in Chicago on his Push Excel Education Program.**

**While Rev. Jackson was in the province he also wanted the chance to interact with youth. So arrangements were made for him to meet with an African-Canadian Studies class at Cole Harbour District High School.**

**“He engaged with everybody on a personal level and that was amazing to see one person work a room like that. I had one teacher come up to me afterwards who said, ‘This is probably the most exciting moment in my life.’ He had that type of presence when he talked to people,” says Smith.**

**The message Rev. Jackson gave to the students was to choose futures over funerals, to choose life over death and to choose hope over dope.**

**“Use your skills to make life better for us all,” he told them, before later touring the Black Cultural Centre.**

**As for Cpl. Smith, he says he’s met a lot of people in his lifetime, but none quite like Rev. Jackson.**

**“He stands head and shoulders above a whole lot,” he says. “He’s living history.”**

## **BEAUMONT, TEXAS**

- **Dunbar Elementary School, Beaumont, TX**

Good afternoon from Dunbar Elementary!!! We are so excited about helping to raise awareness concerning the education of our children.

Our plan is to march from our school to the Charlton-Pollard Resource Center, where we will continue our rallying with keynote speakers. Our students, 'keynote speakers,' are to research the person that they will portray and give their speeches from the podium. The community as well as the media are invited.

Dunbar is also tying this in with our participation with the African American Read-in Chain. Our parents and community are invited to come in dressed as their favorite character and present a Reader's Theater skit. The videos are then submitted to our own Beaumont Independent School District's Channel 7.

Karen Douresseau, Librarian

- **Dishman Elementary School, Beaumont, TX**

During the month of February, Dishman Elementary will be doing the following to celebrate Black History Month and Education is a Civil Right:

- Daily assembly time and announcements including a spotlight on important people of the civil rights movement and Black history.
- Friday→ full-school assembly with additional activities and information concerning Black history involving a quiz on the important people discussed for that week.
- Classroom→ activities highlighting "African American Leaders of Today" activity booklet.
- Weekly,→ students will receive items encouraging pride in heritage and knowledge of Black history.

Dr. Paul Shipman  
Principal

- **Pietzsch-MacArthur Elementary School, Beaumont, TX**

Activity planned for February 12, 2009: To view the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mock Inauguration of President Obama. Compare and Contrast the Mock and the National Inauguration.

On January 16, 2009, the Mock Inauguration was presented to the entire school and parents. BISD media filmed it. It will appear on our BISD Channel 7 for the city to see. Hopefully, we will get the DVD/CD for students to view on television as they

viewed the National Inauguration. This will give them an opportunity to discuss, compare and contrast the Mock Inauguration and the National Inauguration. If DVD/CD's are not ready by February 12<sup>th</sup>, every teacher will already have planned a lesson addressing "Education Is a Civil Right."

Linda Thomas, Principal

- **Odom Academy, Beaumont, TX**

Odom Academy in Beaumont, Texas, will create a school-wide quilt celebrating "Education Is a Civil Right," to hang in the front of the building.

Tillie Hickman, Principal

- **Eugene Field Elementary School, Beaumont, TX**

We at Field ES in Beaumont have a tradition to showcase students on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in assembly during the month of February. Students make presentations regarding events in Black History. Each grade level is responsible for a day. The unique thing is that we have Black, Hispanic and White children all showcasing Black History events.

Philip Brooks, Principal

- **Chestnut Oaks Middle School, Sumter, SC**

My name is Jernitha S. Smith, and I teach 7th & 8th Grade Social Studies at Chestnut Oaks Middle School located in Sumter, SC. I was forwarded the information announcing NABSE's "Education is a Civil Right" campaign, and I wanted to inform your organization of my intention of participating in this most worthy cause. I plan to activate my students to compose essays that will encompass the importance and value in obtaining an education. I truly believe that through this excellent educational opportunity, my students and the general student body of our school will grow more aware of the importance of education.

Best Regards,  
Jernitha S. Smith, M.Ed.  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

- **BISD, Bingman Elementary School, Beaumont, TX**

We will have Councilmember Gethrel "Get" Williams-Wright speak to our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. At the end of her presentation, students will be allowed to ask

questions. We have also invited parents to come out on this day. I will take pictures and send them to you.

Desiree Washington, PR Liaison  
Bingman Elementary  
(409) 838-5259 ext. 245

- **Thomas D. Gregg Elementary School, Indianapolis, IN**

Thomas D. Gregg, Indianapolis Public School 15 fourth graders are going to read the book, *Goin' Someplace Special*, by Patricia C. McKissack. Then they are going to write a constructed response to the question: Why is education a civil right?

Casey J. Gibson, Assistant Principal  
317/226-4215

## **WESTWOOD HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

- **Westwood Heights School District, Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill, Superintendent**

### **Hamady Middle School , Westwood Heights School District**

Dress up Day and Speakers at assembly. Topics: Education Is a Civil Right, and Career Day.

**Hamady High School**, Westwood Heights School District, Flint, MI  
Cresynthia Devereaux, Principal

- Genesys Regional Chamber of Commerce sending four speakers for Career Opportunities  
Examples: Photo Journalist, Medical Student, Director from MSU, etc.
- 1:00 Assembly Speakers: Mr. Ricky Hampton & Quest/ Drop-Out Prevention
- Dress-For-Success Day

- **McMonagle Elementary, Westwood Heights School District, Flint, MI**

**Salli Stevens, Principal**

On Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, McMonagle Elementary will be engaged in the following activities to promote Education is a Civil Right Day:

Each child will design, make and wear a badge that represents the “class of...” that he/she will be graduating from if he/she remains in school, after discussion with teacher

regarding the meaning of “Education as a Civil Right.” Each class will also write a paragraph about what education means to them. These charts will be posted in the main hall.

We are planning to discuss the importance of education and reading with youth in general. We will use our books, *Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?*, *We All Have A Heritage* and *Grandma Says Our Hair Has Flair* to teach youth about pride, diversity and believing in yourself. We want them all to know that education is their civil right, but that they must claim it and do their part, too.

Sandy Holman/ Director of the Culture Co-op  
530-792-1334

### **PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS**

- **Prairie View A&M, Prairie View TX**

We had more than 100 students and 20 faculty members at our forum on Thursday night. Each of the three department heads and the associate dean gave a five-minute talk on what “Education is a Civil Right” means.

Dr. Lucian Yates, III

### **HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

**Howard University  
Education is a Civil Right Activity  
2009**

Under the leadership of Dr. Lois Harrison-Jones, Chair of the Department of Education and Policy, Howard University faculty and students from the Schools of Education and Law sponsored a symposium in response to the “Education is a Civil Right” initiative of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). The symposium, entitled “Education is a Civil Right: Implications for Schools and Schooling”, was held on February 12, 2009 in the School of Education. Presentations were made by doctoral candidates and education and law faculty. Law Professor Derek Black addressed the legislative implications of education is a civil right and former Dean, Dr. Vinetta C. Jones and School of Education professors, Drs. Gloria Grantham and Peter Sola identified significant implications for schools and schooling. Mr. John Marshall, a doctoral student and legislative aide to Congressman Bobby Rush (D. Illinois) shared an overview of President Barak Obama’s education agenda. Students and faculty engaged in a spirited dialogue during and following the presentations.

The symposium evaluation was overwhelmingly positive. Feedback called for another symposium to identify specific strategies and actions to implement the many ideas and

suggestions that emanated from the initial symposium. An additional suggestion was the selection of a larger venue due to the “standing room only” conditions of the event.

### **BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

Superintendent James Williams, Associate Superintendent Dr. Folasade Oladele and I collaborated our efforts at the February 11th Board Meeting, the day before the Participation Day. I am forwarding to you via mail, a copy the tape of this meeting. The Board meetings are repeated on the public access channel a number of times and will do so during the next two weeks, maximizing our exposure to the community. You should receive it early next week.

Lois Johnson

### **INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

- **Francis Bellamy Elementary School, Indianapolis, IN**

At Francis Bellamy School 102, the students in Grades 3-6 will be writing essays about Education is a Civil Right. The teachers will be discussing the importance of education and the meaning of civil rights. The African American History person for today was Thurgood Marshall.

Joyce Buntin, Principal  
(317) 226-4102

### **OSSINING, NEW YORK**

**OSSINING UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Ossining, NY**  
**School Board Meeting**  
**Work Session/Special Meeting/Executive Session 11 February 2009**  
**Roosevelt Board Room Executive Session: 6:30 p.m.**  
**Work Session and Special Meeting: 7:30 p.m.**

#### **AGENDA**

- Call to Order – President
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Special Meeting

## **Section A – Business of the Board of Education**

### **A-2 Motion to Support the “Education Is a Civil Right” Resolution Provided by the National Alliance of Black School Educators**

**WHEREAS**, on 29 April 2008 the Ossining School District Board of Education endorsed a statement that advocated “Education Is A Civil Right That Promotes And Supports Honest Discussions Regarding Issues of Intolerance, Creates a Climate of Respect For All, And Educates Students To Appreciate And Celebrate Differences”;

**WHEREAS**, on November 22, 2007 the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) declared Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE declares that education is not just a privilege, but a birth right, as well as an entitlement; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country are encouraged to adopt a zero tolerance policy towards student failure, dropouts, expulsion and illiteracy; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE has established February 12, 2009 as Education is a Civil Right Participation Day; and

- **Board of Education, Ossining Union Free School District, Ossining, NY**

The Board passed a Motion to Support the “Education Is a Civil Right” Resolution provided by the National Alliance of Black School Educators

**WHEREAS**, on 29 April 2008 the Ossining School District Board of Education endorsed a statement that advocated “Education Is A Civil Right That Promotes And Supports Honest Discussions Regarding Issues of Intolerance, Creates a Climate of Respect For All, And Educates Students To Appreciate And Celebrate Differences”;

**WHEREAS**, the Ossining School District is an Institutional Member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE); and

**WHEREAS**, the National Alliance of Black School Educators has developed a Resolution and urged the support of all school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 22, 2007 the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) declared Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE declares that education is not just a privilege, but a birth right, as well as an entitlement; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country are encouraged to adopt a zero tolerance policy towards student failure, dropouts, expulsion and illiteracy; and

**WHEREAS**, NABSE has established February 12, 2009 as Education is a Civil Right Participation Day; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country are requested to conduct a series of activities related to Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, educators are encouraged to visit the NABSE web site at [www.nabse.org](http://www.nabse.org) to learn more about NABSE and Education is a Civil Right; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ossining School District reaffirms “Education Is a Civil Right”;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ossining School District Board of Education endorse the Resolution provided by the National Alliance of Black School Educators.