

# **EXPLORING AFRICENTRIC EDUCATION**

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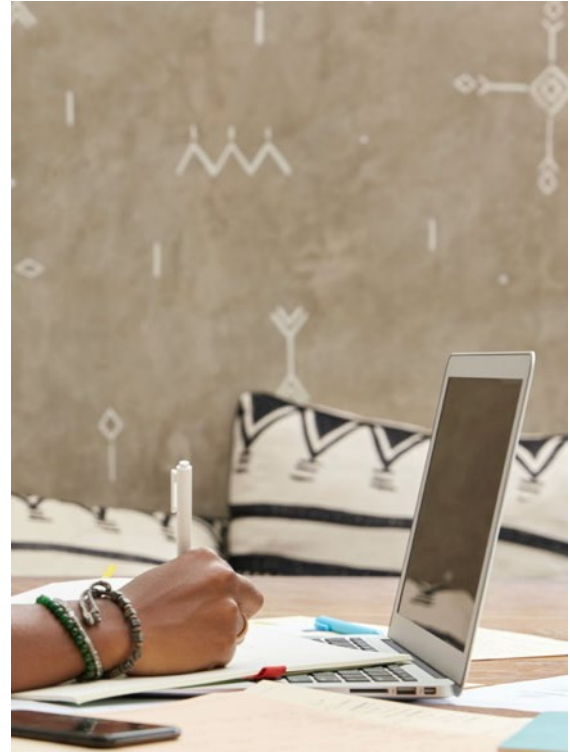
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## WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS:

**Research continues to demonstrate that African Canadian learners experience inequities within the education system.**



## **REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT ON ITS MISSION TO CANADA (2017)**

***African Canadian students have disproportionately low educational attainment, high dropout rates, suspensions and expulsions and they are more likely than other children to be streamed into general and basic-level academic programmes, instead of advanced-level programmes. Race-based stereotypes about African Canadian students' scholastic ability have had a devastating impact (p. 12)***



# UNITED NATIONS REPORT



- **A major concern of the UN report (2014):**
  - **Lack of Black and African-Canadian history and culture in the curriculum**



# CULTURALLY RELEVANT SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- **Developing and promoting culturally relevant school curriculum in the teaching and learning environment is one step to overcoming these systemic inequalities and closing the education achievement gap of learners of African descent.**



AUBURN DRIVE HIGH  
SCHOOL



**AFRICENTRIC  
COHORT**

# SANKOFA



“**Sankofa**” teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.





# PARENT INVOLVEMENT



# ≡ PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

- *Research Question: What are the perspectives of parents of children of African Descent about their child's Africentric Cohort Experience?*



# DESIGN OF THE STUDY

- ***Participants:***  
Parents of students in the Africentric Cohort
- ***Conceptual Framework:***  
Nguzo Saba: The Seven Principles
- ***Theoretical Frameworks:***  
Asante's Concept of Africentricity  
Critical Race Theory (CRT)





# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: CRITICAL RACE THEORY

CRT focuses on the experiential knowledge of ethnic minorities and their communities of origin with respect to race and race relations. (Delgado and Stefancic, 2001)

Critical Race Theory-”thinking of race strictly as an ideological concept denies the reality of a racialized society and its impact on people in their everyday lives.” (Gloria Ladson-Billings, 1998)



# FINDINGS

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

- **“I’m as involved as I can be. Any kind of support that she needs, any kind of functions or gatherings that you guys have, I’m always there for her to support her, and to show her that I’m there for her, in her corner for help”**



# POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



- **“Academically, my son has the best grades that he has ever had in his life ... taking responsibility of his learning and ownership of it.”**
- **“And primarily, she’s learned more about Black culture and heritage.”**



# **PREPARATION FOR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

- **“My daughter has been encouraged to attend postsecondary education... that encouragement has been there right from the start of the program.”**

# ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

- **Covid-19 Pandemic**

**“... Covid has put a stop to a lot of their cultural experiences and excursions, which is too bad”**

- **Negative Stereotypes and Racism in Schools**

**“And the first thing they [educators] say is, do you play basketball? ...and they think that basketball is the only thing that we know, and we should be doing.”**

# **FINAL THOUGHTS**

# QUOTE

**"We have to teach our Black children Black history; tell them about our Black heroes, our Black culture."**

**- Steve Biko**





# **AFRICAN PROVERB**



**"Until the lion learns how to write,  
every story will glorify the hunter"**