Do America’s Public Schools Owe Black People Reparations?

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Moderator

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Guest Speakers

Leah Brown, Assistant Director for Education, Robert Russa Moton Museum

Rita Odom Moseley, Author, No School
An on-demand archive of this webinar will be available at www.edweek.org/go/webinar in less than 24 hrs.
Lock Out

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY SCHOOL CLOSINGS
EDUCATION WEEK
OCT. 8, 2020
Brown v. Board 1954

Brown II 1955
Reaction

- Massive Resistance
- School closings: Warren County, Charlottesville, Norfolk
Allen v. County School Board of Prince Edward County

- U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
- May 9, 1959

“...so as to permit the entrance of qualified persons into the white school in the school term beginning September 1959.”
Board of Supervisors
Response

‘It is with the most profound regret that we have been compelled to take this action...’
What did students do for an education?

**Black Students**
- Families left Prince Edward
- Training Centers
- Kittrell College
- American Friends Service Committee
- Stayed at home

**White Students**
- Left Prince Edward
- Prince Edward Academy
- Stayed at home
Training Centers

- Churches and Homes
- Almost 30 teachers in 15 Locations
- Miss Flossie Hudson
1963

"The closing of public schools in P.E. County has disgraced the State of Virginia."

"PRINCE EDWARD"

"WE WANT OUR SCHOOLS REOPENED NOW!"

"WE MARCH FOR INTEGRATED SCHOOLS NOW!"

"EQUAL RIGHTS NOW!"

"PEOPLE WORKED"

"WE MARCH FOR VICTORY NOW!"

"IN JUNE 1963"
“The time for meme ‘deliberate speed’ has run out, and that phrase can no longer justify denying these Prince Edward County School children their constitutional rights to an education equal to that afforded by the public schools in the other parts of Virginia.”

-Justice Hugo Black
Q&A With Rita Odom Moseley
Why I concluded that Reparations from Public Schools is Necessary

DAAREL BURNETTE II
SCHOOL FINANCE REPORTER
EDUCATION WEEK
Three Reasons Reparations is Necessary

Build a common understanding of our public school system’s racist history.

Improve academic outcomes for all students.

Close the wealth gap between white and Black Americans.

Rebuild trust between school administrators and Black Americans.
Other form of reparations and reconciliation in America and around the world

Japanese Internment Camps
Holocaust
Rwanda
Gambia
Reparations for Black Americans that have been enacted

Rosewood, Fla.

Tulsa, Oka.

Prince Edward County, Va.

Asheville, NC
Four K-12 Injuries to Black Americans

- Destruction of schools
- Teacher layoffs post school integration
- Taxation of Black property owners
- Separate and unequal schooling
How Black Americans Still Suffer From Those Injuries

Unequal Funding
Disproportionately white teaching force
Academic outcome disparities
Segregated Schools
Ideas on what Reparations Could Look Like

Scholarships
Truth and reconciliation
Equalize funding
Guaranteed rights
Fulfill Constitutional promises
Addressing Inequity in America’s Public Schools

Communities In Schools

In schools to help kids stay in school.
Why Engagement Matters

- Predictive of higher grades, test scores, academic aspirations and school completion
- Linked to college attendance and persistence
- Linked to favorable mental health outcomes (e.g., lower levels of depression, suicidal thoughts) and life satisfaction
Barriers to Engagement

- Basic needs
- Social and emotional well-being
- Virtual learning/technology access
- Racial and social justice
## Getting to Engagement and Learning

### Factors Influencing Equitable Learning Conditions

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<tr>
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<th>Social Emotional Well-Being</th>
<th>Learning Environment</th>
<th>Individualized Supports</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Student, family and school staff social-emotional needs and well-being are met</td>
<td>School environment (physical or virtual) is engaging and conducive to learning</td>
<td>Barriers to academic success for Black, Brown, and Indigenous Students and students living in poverty are addressed.</td>
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### Success Criteria

- **Leadership**
  - Commitment to transparent and active school climate initiatives

- **Curriculum & Instruction**
  - Infusion of culturally responsive learning and social-emotional competency development

- **Whole-Child Supports**
  - Non-academic needs of students and families are addressed

- **Community & Family Engagement**
  - Integration of community and family voice and supports in school environment
Integrated Student Supports and Reengagement

- Support equitable learning conditions in and out of the classroom
- Deepen school climate initiatives
- Partner with families and community
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Suggested Reading From Education Week:

Do America's Public Schools Owe Black People Reparations?
School districts must make amends for their racist history, writes Daarel Burnette II. What should that look like?

Read more from the special report: Big Ideas for Confronting Racism in Education
There's no single solution for combating anti-Black racism in schools. That's why we filled an entire special report on the subject.