

Making the Connections – Race, Education, Economics, & Justice

A. When Black Students Win, Everyone Wins

When public schools finally serve Black students effectively and equitably, all students will benefit. Public policy enacted to uplift Black people always benefits other people as much or more. Improving public education will be no different.

BESR is striving to advance sustainable public education policies with measurable “proof points” that show Black students thriving. To do that, we share facts, organize, and connect Black people to the policy-making process itself. We know that if Black people are absent from the debate, our interests will not be protected by anyone else. The difficulty is securing funding to empower Black voices and stay in this multi-year systems-change effort. *It’s a challenge, especially with mainstream funders avoiding “race-based” giving and government agencies paralyzed by I-200.*

B. Proof Points

Positioning schools to successfully serve all students is not insurmountably complex, although some would have us believe otherwise. After years of research, BESR is focused on three gap-closing ideas that uplift Black student achievement and benefit all:

- 1) Giving Black students rich early-learning opportunities, and requiring that each student is reading before completing the third grade.
- 2) Giving Black students real access to rigorous, high-level coursework in middle school and high school.
- 3) Extending/enriching the school day, to boost motivation and attainment of Black students struggling in high school.