

Confronting bias and building trust: Strategies to create inclusive environments for Black teachers

**December 2, 2020
3:00–4:15 p.m. Central Time**

Webinar agenda

3:00–3:05 p.m.

Welcome and overview

Jameela Conway-Turner, PhD, and Kyle Fagan, PhD, researchers,
Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest

Dr. Conway-Turner and Dr. Fagan will provide an overview of the RELs, REL Midwest, the Midwest Achievement Gap Research Alliance, and the goals of the webinar. They will also briefly present research that highlights how retaining Black teachers is a high-leverage strategy for improving student outcomes, particularly for Black students.

3:05–3:25 p.m.

Research presentation

Curtis Jones, PhD, director, Office of Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and co-director, Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness Research Partnership (WEERP)

Katharine Rainey, director, Educator Development and Support, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and co-director, WEERP

Marlo A. Reeves, PhD, senior research/evaluation associate, Office of Socially Responsible Evaluation in Education, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Dr. Jones, Ms. Rainey, and Dr. Reeves will present two recent research reports published by WEERP that discuss the factors that influence the retention rates of Black teachers as well as evidence-based strategies that can increase retention rates for Black teachers and potentially improve educational outcomes among Black students. For example, in one of the studies, Black student achievement improved in schools that exhibited strong organizational conditions where highly committed teachers collaborated more frequently and had strong leadership. Following the presentation, Dr. Conway-Turner will facilitate a short question-and-answer session with the researchers.

3:25–3:35 p.m.

Practitioner experience

Kyron Harvell, STAR Project director, Office of School Culture, Lansing School District

Mr. Harvell will share about the Lansing School District's STAR (School Transformation Accelerates Results) Project, an initiative designed to improve relationships between students and teachers as well as provide additional supports to teachers. He will describe the project's efforts to create more supportive and inclusive environments for Black teachers and other teachers of color. Following the presentation, Dr. Conway-Turner will facilitate a short question-and-answer session with Mr. Harvell.

3:35–3:45 p.m.

Practitioner experience

Sharif El-Mekki, CEO, Center for Black Educator Development, and REL Mid-Atlantic Governing Board member

Mr. El-Mekki will discuss the work of the Center for Black Educator Development related to creating antiracist environments for Black teachers, including conducting professional development workshops and mentoring early-career Black teachers. Following the presentation, Dr. Conway-Turner will facilitate a short question-and-answer session with Mr. El-Mekki.

3:45–4:10 p.m.

Panel discussion

Practitioners and researchers

Dr. Fagan will moderate a panel discussion between the researchers and practitioner presenters. The discussion will build upon each presentation and allow for audience members to ask additional questions. Audience members will walk away from the discussion with tangible examples and action steps they can use to create inclusive and antiracist environments in their state/district/school.

4:10–4:15 p.m.

Wrap-up and closing remarks

Dr. Conway-Turner and Dr. Fagan will thank participants for attending the event and provide links to relevant REL Midwest and Institute of Education Sciences resources.

4:15 p.m.

Adjourn