

# Our Condition

Black children are the proxy for what ails America's education in general. And so when we fashion solutions which help Black children, we fashion solutions which help all children.

The Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins,  
NCEBC Founder

and other forms of violence. The unofficial unemployment rates in some African American communities approach or surpass fifty percent.

Under these conditions when you are poor on a daily basis, often for a full lifetime, it can be most challenging for parents to help their children engage in their public education experience. It can be especially difficult, when it is simply another poor quality educational opportunity, and one that does not, in most cases, welcome and support the parent as a learning partner and advocate for their child.



To learn more about the Parent University Curriculum contact:

**National Council on Educating Black Children**

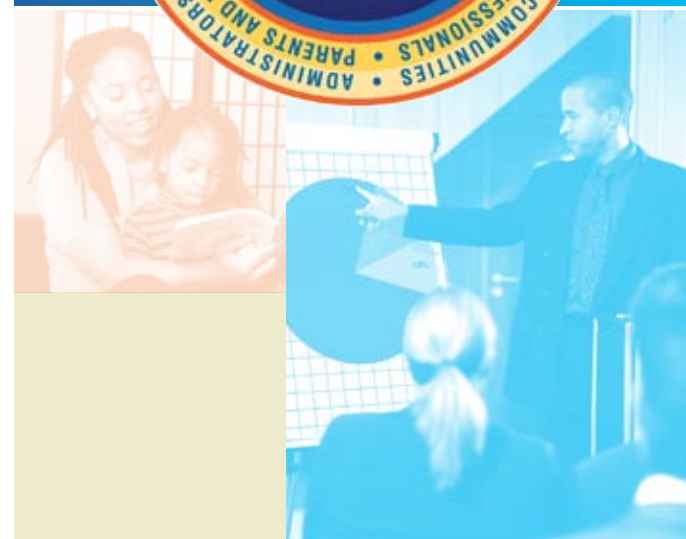
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An Initiative of  
the National  
Council on  
Educating  
Black Children



Decades of poor quality educational opportunity in African American communities have resulted in generations of African Americans leaving public education without acquiring the essential knowledge, skills, and resources needed to successfully enter adulthood. More than 25% of African American families and close to 40% of African American children and youth today are poor, hundreds of thousands languish in America's prisons, and tens of thousands have fallen victim to HIV/AIDS, homicides, suicides, gangs

# Our Challenge



## Our Charge

Over time, this chronic disconnect from high quality public educational opportunities and experiences in the African American community has affected the ability of many African American parents and other primary caregivers to successfully support their children's healthy development and academic success and be strong advocates on their behalf.

The role of parents and extended family members as advocates for quality public education is embedded in the on-going fight for equitable educational opportunity and excellent outcomes for their children.

Education advocacy is not new in the African American community, but many of today's parents of school-age children are unfamiliar with the history of those efforts. Caregivers are in need of a way to reconnect themselves and their communities to the history and on-going efforts to improve public education in the schools their children attend, and in their communities more broadly.

**The National Council on Educating Black Children's Parent University Curriculum** is based on our *National Blueprint for Action IV*, a research-based multiple stakeholder framework for improving education for African American children. Parents and families action items comprise the first section of the blueprint, as a testimony to their critical importance in this effort.

The Parent University Curriculum teaches parents to hold accountable public officials, education leaders, their children's schools and school systems for the provision of a high quality public education.



### The Parent University Curriculum goals:

- gives parents tools for improving their children's educational achievement; and prepares them to take an activist approach to ensuring quality public education for their children and in their communities;
- strengthens the connection between African American parents and their unique history and culture;
- provides important information about healthy adult, childhood, and adolescent development.

**The curriculum** uses pre- and post-assessments, mini-lectures, discussions and dialogues, large and small group activities, journaling (oral or written), research, special guests, and action planning as learning tools and includes four modules:

- I. The Cultural and Historical Strengths of the African American Family and Community**
- II. Adult, Childhood and Adolescent Development and Parenting for Educational Excellence in the African American Family**
- III. What is Quality Public Education and How Can African American Parents Help Us Get There? Defining Quality and Understanding Public Education at the Federal, State, District, and School Levels**
- IV. Preparing African American Parents and Communities for Effective Education Advocacy**



**The Parent University Curriculum** is designed for use by African American parents and extended family members, including foster parents, adoptive parents, and other court and non-court appointed primary caretakers of African American children. Parents from across the African diaspora may also benefit from the curriculum as well. NCEBC will offer "train-the-trainer" events for those who purchase the curriculum.

This curriculum can be used in many settings where there is a need to work with parents around issues concerning the healthy development and successful education of their children. It complements the tutoring programs of NCEBC's Literacy Centers and youth programs in communities serving children and youth of African American descent. It can also be used in conjunction with NCEBC's teacher professional development workshops that focus on increasing teacher cultural competence for working effectively with African American children and families.