

Engaging All Teachers

The National Council on Educating Black Children recognizes the need to replicate the practices of successful teacher's of African American students (especially black males) attending schools located in urban communities plagued by poverty, crime and violence. In order to improve high school and college graduation rates of African American students, NCEBC encourages engaging teachers in culturally relevant responsive teaching strategies.

The *Touching the Spirit* of the African American child is a comprehensive staff development offering endorsed by NCEBC.



Teacher Comments About the Workshop:

"The most valuable part of today's session was being reminded of the importance of modeling and using repetitive modeling of good literature styles to guide students' writing."

Teacher, San Francisco, CA

"The most valuable part of the presentation to me was your demonstration of creative ways of getting low achieving kids to respond. Your humor adds a lot to the lesson."

**International Reading Association
Conference Attendee**

"Presenter was very well prepared. She was so prepared that she was able to address questions that were not part of her prepared presentation."

Teacher, Detroit, MI

"The workshop exceeded my expectations. The techniques and principles presented are highly useful and immediately applicable in the classroom."

Teacher, Detroit, MI

**To learn more about the
"Touching the Spirit" Workshops contact:**

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Touching The Spirit

Teaching Workshops



**Encouraging Educational Excellence:
Through Culturally
Relevant Teaching Strategies**



An Initiative
Endorsed by
the National
Council on
Educating
Black Children

Touching The Spirit

Teaching Workshops

The *Touching the Spirit* framework was developed by Augusta Mann to help teachers utilize culture in the achievement of educational excellence for under-achieving African American and other students.



The framework is based on two areas of research:

- Culture, history, and language of African American people,
- Successful teachers of African American students and students of other ethnicities whom our schools are failing to educate to high standards.

It includes *Five Teaching and Learning Patterns* used within the context of *Nine Supportive Practices*.



The Five Teaching and Learning Patterns are:

- **Ritual** (*Affirmations/performances*)
- **Rhythm** (*In music, speech and movement*)
- **Recitation** (*Oral performance/memorization*)
- **Repetition** (*To enhance meaningfulness*)
- **Relationships** (*love, respect, and belonging*):
Recognizing ties between humans and nature; Scientific study of patterns in nature and the phenomenal world; Making connections between school work and students' life experiences

The Nine Supportive Practices are:

- **Expectations of Excellence**
- **Continual Search for Patterns**
- **Insistence on Working Toward Mastery**
- **Teacher Modeling of Skills and Processes**
- **Intensive Direct Instruction and Practice**
- **Study of African Deep Thought**
- **Focus on Discourse, Inquiry, and Creative and Symbolic Thinking**
- **Using Knowledge for Social Criticism and Community Action**
- **In-Depth Study and Performance of African and African American Culture**

Successful teachers learn about their students' history, culture, language, background knowledge, and experiences. They use this information to develop learning activities that empower and engage their students' interest and involvement. The *Touching the Spirit* framework helps guide teachers in these processes.

The *Touching the Spirit* educational model helps teachers use this intrinsic African cultural idea to design educational content and processes that foster excellence in African American students. Since culture drives education and the core of African and African American culture is the "Spirit"; to tap the culture of African American students and bring out educational excellence, teachers must touch the spirit.

Effective teachers will achieve this goal by designing curriculum and instruction that includes the 14 components of the *Touching the Spirit* framework.

As teachers use the patterns and practices of the framework (reflective of African and African American culture), they realize that these principles speak to students of all cultures.

