



NBCDI

National Black Child
Development Institute

STATE OF THE BLACK CHILD REPORT CARD

WASHINGTON

What's in this Report Card?

The policy recommendations in the 2018 State of the Black Child Report Card for Washington highlight the racial disparities that affect learning outcomes for Black children and families. The Report Card provides parents, caregivers, advocates, community leaders and policymakers with high-priority policy recommendations to improve education, health and family support systems for Black children and families.



RECOMMENDATION

1

INCREASE ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR BLACK CHILDREN



Expand access to Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program to ensure more Black 3 and 4 year-olds living in poverty have access to high-quality early childhood education (child care) programs. Black children in Washington are experiencing high rates of poverty with more than one-third of Black children living in poverty in 2015. Currently, a family of four must have an annual salary under \$27,610 to be eligible for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). NBCDI recommends increasing the salary limit for (ECEAP) to allow more children to have access to high-quality early childhood education.

**IN 2016,
OVER 1380**

**BLACK CHILDREN WHO WERE ELIGIBLE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DID NOT HAVE ACCESS
TO THE PROGRAM.**

RECOMMENDATION

2

INCREASE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The core purpose of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program is to give children from low-income families equal access to high-quality early childhood education (child care). However, early childhood education providers who participate in the program receive very low payment to serve these families and children. To improve the quality of early education for low-income children, NBCDI recommends increasing payments to early childhood education providers who participate in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

According to data from the National Women's Law Center,
**WASHINGTON'S MONTHLY PAYMENT RATE
FOR CENTER CARE FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD
IN KING COUNTY WAS**

\$788,
WHICH WAS
\$512

**BELOW THE
RECOMMENDED
PAYMENT
LEVEL FROM
THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT.**



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RECOMMENDATION

3

ENSURE TEACHER DIVERSITY REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Implement targeted supports designed to recruit and retain of Black educators in early childhood education workforce and K-12 workforce. Washington state's initiatives designed to advance the ECE workforce should include strategies to recruit and retain Black educators. Research shows that Black students perform better with Black teachers—academically, socially, and emotionally.

IN WASHINGTON (2015-16) WHILE THE PROPORTION OF STUDENTS OF COLOR (NON-WHITE) ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WAS APPROXIMATELY **44%,**

TEACHERS OF COLOR REPRESENT ONLY **10% OF THE OVERALL TEACHING WORKFORCE. **2.8%** ARE BLACK.**

(University of Washington College of Education Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy, "Understanding Teacher Retention and Mobility in Washington State," 2017)



RECOMMENDATION

4

SUPPORT POSITIVE DISCIPLINE PRACTICE AND END HARSH DISCIPLINE FOR BLACK CHILDREN

In 2016 session, the Washington legislature passed Opportunity Gap House Bill 1541 placing limits on long-term suspensions and expulsions. NBCDI challenges policymakers to take further action by partnering with parents and caregivers to develop statewide guidance and training on positive guidance, racial bias and developmentally-appropriate practice for early childhood education across all early learning settings and elementary schools. This process should be led by a taskforce of diverse parents/caregivers and educators requiring representation from Black families.

BLACK CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MORE THAN

****4X** THE RATE OF WHITE STUDENTS**

according to the *Seattle Times* analysis of data provided by Seattle Public Schools. (*U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights 2 Civil Rights Data Collection*)



RECOMMENDATION

5

ELIMINATE THE RACIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAP BY EQUIPPING EDUCATORS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF BLACK CHILDREN

NBCDI recommends creating and implementing professional development for educators from early childhood education through high school on how to use culturally-responsive child observation and assessment to effectively respond to the needs of Black children. To address the achievement gap, educators must be equipped to create positive learning environments for Black children and engage parents as partners in children's education.

IN 2017, WASHINGTON'S GRADUATION RATES FOR WHITE STUDENTS WAS

****81.9%**,**

WHILE THE GRADUATION RATE FOR BLACK STUDENTS WAS

****71.5%****

