

National Black Church Initiative

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National Black Church Initiative President Rev. Anthony Evans Declares an Education Emergency in The African American Community and Presents a Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century

We Have A Plan

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans declares an education emergency and call for higher standards and advance proven evidence-based practices for African Americans in early childhood education and for all students. NBCI plans to recruits and training over 350,000 mentors to build the academics framework to support this new effort.

The National Black Church Initiative is launching a *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century*, to address academic pathways and priorities for African Americans in K-12 public schools and higher education. Since the Black Church historically has served as epicenter for educating African Americans through pedagogical and content-focused efforts, a prevailing imperative exists to re (establish) these foundational relationships to generate smoother matriculation and competitive outcomes of African Americans in the K-20 and beyond pipeline.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative Black Church says, “We have the blessings and support of the entire black church global leadership for NBCI *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century*. One of our first steps is to call African American academicians and scholars together to set higher standards for all African American Children at every grade levels. We plan to build news partnerships and to conduct an in-depth evaluation of current partners to see if there are still affinity issues in move forward under this new strategy. We are currently conducting an educational evaluation in 200 communities around this nation to simply answer the question. Are these communities doing all they can do with the resources they have and do they benefits blacks students? We plan to release these observations of those 200 communities in early 2017. In addition, we plan to conduct the largest education survey of African American parent attitudes and expectations ever in the history of the black community. This crucial data will give us the information we need to understand the challenges at ground level and the ability to write and shape educational policies for the African American community going forward over the next fifty years. This is why the black church has declared an education emergency.

As we know, the persisting gap or uncertain stance between the vital institutions of church and education for African Americans has been negated and under-utilized for many years. Historically, the longstanding impact and tradition of these two institutions have produced generations of successful African Americans who received initial education and teachings in the church. With the launching of the *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century*, the National Black Church Initiative recognizes concerted efforts are needed to remedy the uncertain stance and persisting gap between the institutions of church and education. Unless such efforts are taken, for generations to come, the trajectory of African Americans in childhood and adulthood becomes dependent upon incomplete approaches devoid of the unique character and capacity found in this formidable relationship. Hence, the readiness of African Americans at each of these stages is critical to the viability of our colleges, our community, and our country.

The pursuit of the *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century* by the National Black Church Initiative requires both collective and individual engagement. Scholars and academicians elicit understanding to the plethora of issues and varying nuances and nexuses affecting academic matriculation from childhood to adulthood within K-12 and higher education contexts. Religious and church advocates give voice to the concerns of nuclear and extended families comprising their congregation who have unique accounts about the impact of the educational system. Given the ongoing challenges faced by Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the shared and distinctive issues facing rural and inner-city public schools, and the dismal quality of early childhood education experienced by African Americans, establishing a collaborative of scholars and academicians from the institution of education with clergy and laymen (women) of the churches will provide a culturally-relevant, strategic approach toward generating holistic measures within the comprehensive educational strategy.

The National Black Church Initiative believes strongly in the need for this *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century* and building upon present relationships within educational and religious communities. The targeted objectives are as follows:

- To establish higher standards and advance evidence-based practices for African Americans in early childhood education as well as in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and in other related forms of academic knowledge and skills for adolescents and adults to prepare a viable, sustainable economic workforce;
- To assure HBCUs continue to exist in this new technological and innovation-focused era; and
- To crystallize the historic role of the Black Church in promoting its sacred principles and education as its highest calling to the African American congregation and society at large.

In summary, what depth and breadth of knowledge and experience scholars and academicians and religious and church advocates alike offer regarding the persisting challenges and existing opportunities for African Americans in educational contexts and beyond. The development of the *Comprehensive Educational Strategy: A Pathway Forward for African Americans in the 21st Century* serves as an important document to provide viable standards and solutions to (re) cultivate a generation of African Americans who can maximize their fullest God-given and human potential within the realms of this American society.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.