

## Engaging Black Boys in Schools Episode Guide

**Focus:** Myths and stereotypes regarding academic achievement of black boys

**Presenter:** Ivory A. Toldson, PhD

### Key Findings

- Living in an abusive household may contribute to academic disadvantages
- Living in a single-parent household does not hurt children's academic achievement
- Parenting style, the level of supports, parent's educational attainment, cooperative relationship, and parental attitudes toward education are closely related to academic performance
- Over-representation of the black males in juvenile is one of the leading contributing factors to lower academic achievement
- Black boys wish to be treated with respect and dignity within schools
- Black boys place extreme value in education

### Key Recommendations

- Develop healthy social relationships
- Build a supportive family environment
- Promote mutual respect with teachers and school staff
- Create connections between the knowledge students learned from school to later life stages
- Add more extra-curricular activities
- Revise overly strict discipline and testing policies

### Resources

- Toldson, I. A. (2011). *Breaking Barriers 2: Plotting the Path Away from Juvenile Detention and toward Academic Success for School Age African-American Males*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

- Toldson, I. A. (2008). *Breaking Barriers: Plotting the Path to Academic Success for School-age African-American Males*. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.