



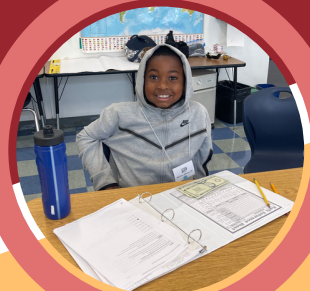
“My youth feels more confident about the upcoming school year and a community of support with him.”

-A STEP UP! Academy parent



The Berkeley African American Success Framework (AASF) team has spent a rewarding fall semester cultivating brilliance and developing community among BUSD's Black/African American school networks.

We're excited to share a detailed recap of our efforts with the Back-to-School STEP UP! Academy, family engagement sessions, and school site supports. Read on to learn all about it!



420

Berkeley families connected in the African American Success Framework network

120

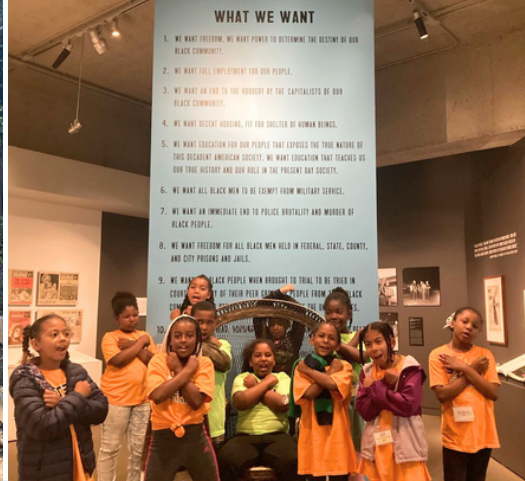
Berkeley students served at the Summer '23 STEP UP! Academy Back-to-School Sessions

108

Hours of support offered



AASF District partners play a critical role in implementing the African American Success Framework through supporting student engagement, climate and culture, and college going activities. We're proud to partner with College Bound programs, STEP UP! Academy, UMOJA, Black Girls United, and Young, Gifted and Black.



From left to right: STEP UP! Academy field trips to Strawberry Creek in Berkeley, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Noire Wealth Xperience Selfie Museum

The Back-to-School STEP UP! Academy immersed BUSD scholars in hands-on STEAM projects and exciting field trips

Through the months of July and August, this intensive, eight-week series of at-home and in-person sessions motivated and prepared students for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, applying a strong focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) within the context of the rich cultural, social, and historical contributions of individuals throughout the African Diaspora.



Above: Scholars with new backpacks provided by the STEP UP! Academy

Projects included...

At-Home:

- Home-made Clay, Egyptian Cartouche
- Ceremonial Mask
- Adire-Style Wax Batik, Blue Indigo Cloth
- Wattle Weaving, Day Names
- Mini Beacons, Ancient Arts and Crafts

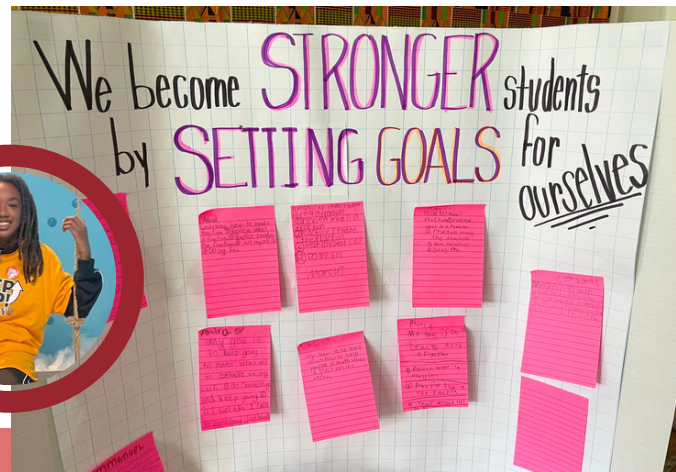
- Recycled Journals, Spanish Names in Your Community

In-Person:

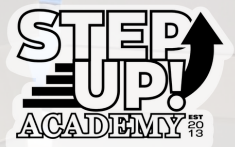
- Build Your Own Fraction Kit, Benjamin Banneker Clock, Butterfly Sanctuaries
- Create Your Own Board Game, Make a Mancala Board

STEP UP! Academy Scholars Shared Their Goals:

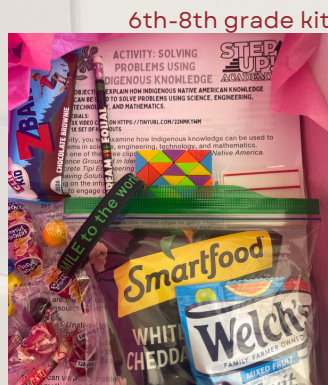
- "My goal is to keep going no matter what and to believe in myself."
- "If I feel like I can't do something, just breathe."
- "My goal is to review what is a fraction... and to test myself."



BEHIND-THE-SCENES: STEP UP! ACADEMY'S FALL THRIVE-AT-HOME KITS



3rd-5th grade kit



6th-8th grade kit



On November 13th, the STEP UP! Academy Team distributed over 100 Thrive-at-Home kits to the next cohort of STEP UP! Academy scholars. Here is a behind-the-scenes look at the assembly process!



Student Site Supports

Schools belonging to the AASF Early Adopter and Vision School Networks volunteered to incorporate AASF strategies for cultivating African American student achievement in their respective communities. As a result, programs such as Willard Middle School's "Project ASAP" goal-setting workshops and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School's "Young Men of Color" workshops – to name a few – engaged and motivated BUSD students with special supports.

Family Engagement and Listening Sessions

This Fall Semester, the AASF team held 6 Family Engagement and Listening Sessions with BUSD families, focusing on leveraging each other's collective voices to enhance, improve, and sustain opportunities for Black/African American students and families. More sessions are slated for the Spring 2024 semester, so stay tuned for more information!





Culturally and Linguistically Responsive and Relevant (CLRR) Professional Learning and Student Intervention Sessions

Here's an update on AASF **Goal #2, Provide High Quality Differentiated Professional Learning**: Over the course of **20 sessions** (and counting), **60 instructional staff** in the AASF Vision School Network have deepened their perspectives on best practice instructional strategies to support African American students, study intervention protocols to support student learning, and bolster differentiated instruction skills. In terms of reach, that means **1,500 K-8 students** at **Longfellow Middle School, Willard Middle School**, and **Berkeley Arts Magnet** have been impacted in the classroom.

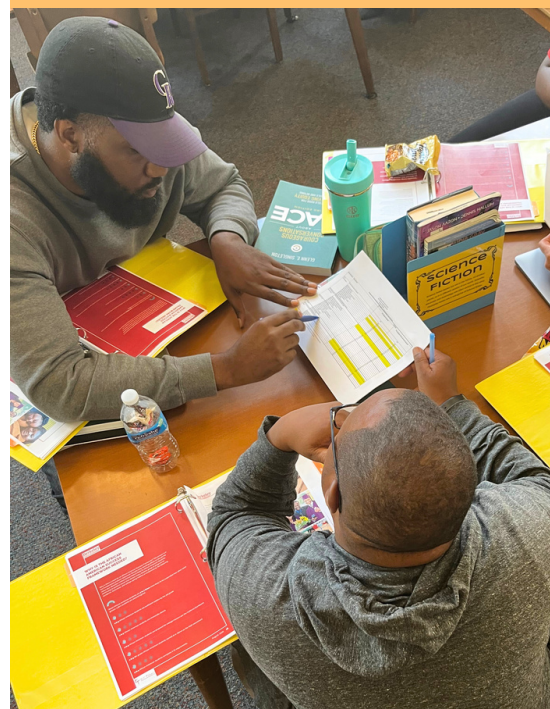


The African American Success Advisory Committee

Here's an update on AASF **Goal #4, Engage With Families and Communities**: Since April, 2023, the African American Success Community Advisory Committee has convened 9 times to review the district's implementation of the Framework and to advise the Board, Superintendent, and relevant District Department designee(s) regarding the accountability of services, programs, policies, and resources that directly impact the Framework goals and outcomes. Follow [this link](#) to review past Advisory Committee meeting materials and to stay updated on future public meetings.

The African American Success Framework is a written document that analyzes key areas related to effective teaching and learning for African American students, as uncovered through a strategic and disciplined approach drawing on research and best practice, assessing and monitoring progress, and partnering with Black students, parents/guardians, and community leaders.

The Framework centers around 4 Goals and corresponding Strategic Actions. Follow these links to view the Strategic Actions for each Goal: [#1](#), [#2](#), [#3](#), and [#4](#).



CALENDARS

CLRR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DATES

Longfellow Middle School:

- 10/04
- 11/01
- 12/13
- 01/24
- 02/21
- 03/20
- 04/17
- 05/22

Willard Middle School:

- 09/19
- 10/17
- 12/19
- 01/16
- 02/20
- 03/19
- 04/16
- 05/21

Berkeley Arts Magnet:

- 10/18
- 01/10

Sylvia Mendez Elementary School:

Planning in process

Expanded Learning (BEARS/LEARNS) Community of Practice (COP)

- 02/01
- 03/07
- 04/11
- 05/09

NOVEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

TIMELINE	ACTIVITY
11/04	College Bound sessions, Quarterly AASF Vision School Network check-ins
Week of 11/13	Thrive-at-Home Kits distribution
12/01	Begin summer intervention planning
12/02	College Bound sessions
12/05	Quarterly CCEIS Education Partners' meeting
12/13	African American Success Advisory Council meeting
Week of 12/18	Thrive-at-Home Kits distribution
01/24	African American Success Advisory Council meeting

FEBRUARY 2024 - JULY 2024

TIMELINE	ACTIVITY
02/10	Quarterly AASF Vision School Network check-ins
03/04	Finalize AASF summer intervention dates and outreach plan
Week of 03/25	Thrive-at-Home Kits distribution
04/06	College Bound sessions
04/13	2nd Annual Transition Fair (5th & 8th grades)
04/24	African American Success Advisory Council meeting
05/04	College Bound sessions, Quarterly AASF Vision School Network check-ins
06/09	AAREA Student Awards
June - July	AASF Summer intervention



The African American Success Framework team would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all families, faculty, and community partners for their ongoing collaboration and enthusiastic show of support for Berkeley's Black/African American scholars.

For immediate information about the African American Success Framework, please visit the BUSD African American Resources webpage below:
<https://www.berkeleyschools.net/african-american-resources/>