

Table of Contents

Editor's Comment

To rename or remain <i>The Journal of Negro Education</i>	1
Frederick D. Harper	

The 2005 Charles H. Thompson Lecture-Colloquium Presentation

Schools at Work: Targeting Proficiency with Theory to Practice.....	4
Marian White-Hood	

Profound problems in public schools require solutions that are often difficult to implement. Although we, as a society, see the future embodied in the students, our promise to educate them is often not reflected in our practices. A lack of will is evident. The following article explores the notion of “schools at work” and provides strategies grounded in theory that can be applied to practice. It illuminates and crystallizes themes of emerging leadership, the complexities of school life, collaboration and parental involvement, teacher quality, the underpinnings of accountability, and the human science perspective. The article describes how a principal subjectively and personally “lived” the experience of No Child Left Behind while targeting proficiency.

Curriculum-Based Measurement: An Emerging Alternative to Traditional Assessment for African American Children and Youth.....	16
Cecil Fore III, Mack D. Burke, and Christopher Martin	

The purpose of this article is to provide readers with an overview of Curriculum-Based Measurement (CBM). Special education is often used for meeting the needs of African American children and youth. Assessment reform is needed that emphasizes reliable and valid alternative assessment, linkages to the curriculum, and progress monitoring. CBM may be a viable alternative to current norm-referenced assessment practices that are often biased toward African American children and youth.

Participation in School Sports: Risk or Protective Factor for Drug Use Among Black and White Students?.....	25
Marvin P. Dawkins, Mary M. Williams, and Michael Guilbault	

This study examined the relationship between participation in school-based sports and drug use among Black and White high school students, using data from participants in the National Educational Longitudinal Survey of 1988 (NELS, NCES, 1988) and follow-up surveys in 1990 and 1992. While previous research produced inconsistent results, the present study revealed that participation in school-based sports was associated with a reduction in cigarette and marijuana use, thus, serving as a protective factor for Black and White students. However, the protective role of sports involvement for alcohol use was present only among Black females. Participation in sports was associated with an increase in alcohol use (serving as a risk factor) among White males and females and Black males (after controlling for conventional predictors of alcohol use in adolescence). Implications for expanding the role of sports as a potential school resource in drug use prevention planning are discussed.

Connecting Pieces of the Puzzle: Gender Differences in Black Middle School Students' Achievement.....	34
Roslyn Arlin Mickelson and Anthony D. Greene	

In this article, the authors explore the sources of gender variations in African American middle school students' academic performance. The roots of Black males' underachievement are of particular interest. Because middle schools are essential links in the sequence of opportunities to learn, it is imperative to understand the social and educational forces that influence academic outcomes for this age group of adolescents. The authors examine the contributions of family, school, and individual factors to academic outcomes. Using survey research data gathered from a representative sample of middle school English classes in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) system, the article investigates how the various factors contribute to academic outcomes as measured by students' North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG)

standardized test scores. Findings indicate that although there are no gender differences in achievement in 2nd grade, differences become evident by middle school, with females obtaining higher test scores and grades than males. Although prior achievement and track placement affect all students in expected ways, males' test scores are more likely to be affected by peers, educational attitudes, school structure, and school climate. Females' test scores are more likely to be influenced by family socioeconomic status and cultural capital. The article shows how 8th-grade Black males' lower level of academic performance begins to take shape and to align in ways that foreshadow the disappointing school outcomes associated with older Black male students.

Dress Codes Blues: An Exploration of Urban Students' Reactions to a Public High School
 Uniform Policy.....49
 Kneia DaCosta

This qualitative investigation explores the responses of 22 U.S. urban public high school students when confronted with their newly imposed school uniform policy. Specifically, the study assessed students' appraisals of the policy along with compliance and academic performance. Guided by ecological human development perspectives and grounded in theory-based qualitative analysis, the study elucidated the themes that emerged in relevant student narratives. Findings indicated that the overwhelming majority of students were opposed to and non-compliant with the school uniform policy, and that these responses were unrelated to school performance. Students developed oppositional strategies designed to undermine the policy and to retain some semblance of freedom and dignity. Suggestions for further research and policy are provided.

African American Undergraduates and the Academic Library.....60
 Ethelene Whitmire

This study examines the academic library experiences of African American undergraduates attending a research university in the Midwest. Data collection techniques included questionnaires and ethnographic observations. The results indicated that African American undergraduates are using the academic library primarily to read and to study with their own materials. Additional data include information about what days and time periods they normally visited the library and their library activities. Although the undergraduates primarily used the library as an academic space, there was some evidence suggesting that these undergraduates also viewed the library as a social space.

Book/Media Reviews

Poverty and Schooling in the U.S: Contexts and Consequences, by Sue Books.....67
 (Tameka M. Tucker)

Talkin' Back: Raising and Educating Resilient Black Girls, by Dierdre Glenn Paul.....68
 (Shareefah Al'Uqdah)

Leave No Child Behind: Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's World, by James P. Comer.....70
 (Edmund W. Gordon and Brenda X. Mejia)

Cover: Photograph of Masai warriors in Tanzania, photographed by Paul Wellington Smith, former Vice President of Professional Services at Providence Hospital, Washington, DC. Mr. Smith is an alumnus of Howard University's School of Pharmacy.