

Fall 2021

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About Us

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is the first of its kind in public education in Canada. The Centre is dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes for Black students and aims to be responsive to the voices of Black communities who continue to advocate for systemic change within educational institutions and for dismantling anti-Black racism at the TDSB.



Website Launch

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement has created a new website that features resources and programs, opportunities for ongoing collaboration with families, and initiatives to enhance partnerships with community organizations and service providers. The content is focused on improving experiences of belonging and academic outcomes for Black students.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/cebsa for information on programs, resources, news and more.

An internal website that contains additional resources for educators is available on the Google Sites platform for staff.

Follow us on social media

Twitter: [@tdsb_cebsa](https://twitter.com/tdsb_cebsa)

Instagram: [@tdsb_cebsa](https://www.instagram.com/tdsb_cebsa)

Human Library Podcast

The [TDSB Human Library](#) podcast is returning for a second season! The theme for season two is Conversations Around Black Student Success and Excellence.

The Human Library podcast comprises of a collection of audio episodes on topics that challenge educators to critically reflect on their pedagogy. Episodes explore innovative ways educators can centre students, deepen relationships with families and enhance community partnerships. Each episode also offers an inquiry question to support educators in re-envisioning their practice.

Grounded within the mandates of the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, the latest season introduces audience members to leading scholars, emerging thinkers, and fellow educators passionate about creating learning spaces dedicated to Black student success, well-being and positive racial identity. Season two highlights strategies that support meaningful engagement and advocacy of caregivers and communities. It also offers guidance with navigating the education system.

The first episode, Loving Blackness: Supporting Positive Racial Identity in the Early Years features Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of Nebraska-Omaha. Stay tuned for the launch date.



The graphic for the Human Library Podcast Episode 1 features a microphone icon and a portrait of Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg. The text includes the podcast title, the episode title, and the guest's name and affiliation.

Human Library Podcast
Conversations Around Black Student Success & Excellence

EPISODE 1
Loving Blackness:
Supporting Positive Racial Identity in the Early Years

Featuring
Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg
Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education
University of Nebraska-Omaha

UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 VACCINE: Making Evidence-Based Choices for Black Children and Youth

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

FEATURING:

Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman



Dr. David Burt

Dr. Upton Allen



Dr. Akwatu Khenti

Webinar Opportunity

Understanding COVID-19 Vaccine: Making Evidence-Based Choices for Black Children and Youth

Join the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with the Black Physicians' Association of Ontario, the Black Scientists' Taskforce on Vaccine Equity and the Black Health Vaccine Initiative for a webinar and panel discussion. Information will be shared with Black families, caregivers and staff about the COVID-19 infection, vaccine, Black children's health and education.

Participants are invited to submit their questions to the panel of health care professionals in advance.

Featuring:

- Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman
- Dr. Upton Allen
- Dr. David Burt
- Dr. Akwatu Khenti

When:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/cebsahealth>

Black Student Leadership Courses

This fall, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with the TDSB's Research and Development Department, the Jean Augustine Chair, Dr. Carl James, and researchers at York University, are offering two courses centering on Black Student Leadership and Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR).

The course offerings are CPC 301 - Politics in Action: Making Change and HSE4M1: Equity and Social Justice - From Theory to Practice.

This program serves self-identifying Black TDSB students in Gr.11 or 12. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Saturday from October 23, 2021 to June 18, 2022.

Enrolled students explore topics within government relations, social justice, equity and power relations. Students will also develop skills in research, advocacy and leadership.



Community Consultations

Community members and parents of children enrolled in the TDSB are invited to attend a community consultation.

The community consultations consist of virtual sessions that are co-hosted with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and community organizations including A Different Booklist, Tropicana Community Services and the Jamaican Canadian Association. Multiple sessions are held throughout the year and attendees can register [online](#). All sessions run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming 2021 session dates:

- Nov. 16 - Jamaican Canadian Association
- Nov. 17 - Jamaican Canadian Association
- Nov. 23 - Tropicana Community Services

Attendees who self-identify as Black-African, Afro-Caribbean and Black are invited to engage in conversations exploring the various ways to implement the mandates identified by the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and how to promote meaningful and collaborative school-community relationships.

For more details, visit our [website](#).



Black Girls' Book Club

The Black Girls' Book Club has returned for another year!

Launched by Graduation Coaches for Black Students, the Black Girls' Book Club is a space to build community, explore new stories and ways of creative expression. The club meets with self-identifying Black girls in the TDSB to celebrate the voices of Black women authors.

This semester's session has 26 students from Grades 9 to 12 registered.

Members of the Black Girls' Book Club are currently reading *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris.

To learn more about the Black Girls' Book Club contact: keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca

Black Studies Courses

Select high schools across the Toronto District School Board are offering Black Studies courses to students.

Courses include:

- Sound Messages
- Politics in Action
- Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism
- The African Diaspora
- Redefining the Mandem

For more information on course offerings and descriptions, contact: cebsa@tdsb.on.ca

Sankofa Black Heritage Series Teachers' Guide

The TDSB-Rubicon Sankofa Black Heritage Series Teachers' Guide is now available [online](#). The guide supports the implementation of Black-centred texts & culturally relevant pedagogies in Gr. 4 - 8 literacy classrooms. The resource guide provides 15 step-by-step, literacy-focused learning experiences derived from the texts contained in the Rubicon Sankofa Black Heritage Series.

The Rubicon Sankofa Black Heritage Series centres on the powerful, diverse & complex stories, histories & cultures of Black people. The informational texts in each book of the Rubicon Sankofa Black Heritage Series invites students to focus on and explore the past of African peoples along with examining contemporary communities and cultures.

The use of Black-authored and Black-centred texts in literacy learning experiences are vital for Black and non-racialized students and teachers to deepen their understanding of the incredible and complex histories, stories and cultural legacies of people of African descent.

Anti-racist and anti-oppressive pedagogy that uses culturally relevant and sustaining practices to address issues of power and privilege in classrooms is a successful means to reduce opportunity gaps and to improve educational outcomes of students.

Experiential Learning Program

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with Interac Corp. is offering an experiential learning and professional development program for Black students in TDSB schools.

The sessions aim to provide mentorship, develop creativity, foster innovation, enhance entrepreneurial thinking and build technological and transferable skills.

Students enrolled in the program are financially compensated for their efforts. By completing the program students gain skills relevant for today's workforce.

Program launched on November 10 and is open to students from Grades 10 to 12.



Mailing List

Sign-up for our [mailing list](#) so you can receive future updates directly from the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

In the News:

[Black TDSB students explore the wide world of engineering in latest summer program](#)

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement (September 2021)

[Pre-K Summer Learning Program helps give racialized students a voice](#)

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement (September 2021)

[TDSB's Black Student Summer Leadership Program inspires youth to take on the world](#)

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement (October 2021)

[The Black Girls' Book Club](#)

CBC Radio – Metro Morning
(November 5, 2021)

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

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