

African American Coalition of Indianapolis

**recommendations
for**

A Black Agenda for Black Indianapolis

from

Black & Latino Policy Institute

August 2020

Is America possible? ~ Vincent Harding

“Power corrupts, but so does powerlessness. Violence is the expression of impotence.”

~ Bronowski, *The Face of Violence*

Having their global human rights validated, being educated for critical citizenship, having a peer on school boards, knowing their history and having a viable cultural identity, attending a First Amendment school, knowing how to community organize, learning at school vigorously, knowing how to conduct Youth Participatory Action Research, having a strength-based learning plan, feeling their current lives and their global youth culture are recognized, having more than one way and one chance to show what they know and can do, experiencing rites of passage ceremonies, and going to schools whose purpose is not to get poor students out of poverty, but to get rid of it empowers children and youth, making them less likely to be aggressive and violent to get the healthy sense of significance they desire and deserve.

Students need to feel they have efficacy, that their lives matter and they can make a difference. Having little or no control over your environment, leads to stress. When students have a say in their school and community, this self-rule ethos of American democracy leads to better outcomes for everyone.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

Recognize the global human rights of Indianapolis children and youth

Bullying and the *Differon*: Embracing difference as a way to reduce student violence

Beware of and counter the Youth-Industrial Complex

Community Organizing: Advancing the Black Agenda for Indianapolis by training youth how to community organize

Youth Participatory Action Research; Advancing a Black Agenda for Indianapolis by teaching youth how to conduct research to support their agenda

Expand trauma-informed care policies: Healing symptoms while eliminating causes

Rites of Passage: Either AACI provides rites of passage, or youth will have their own

Appreciate hip hop (global youth culture) as an asset, not a liability

EDUCATION

It is vital Black History is taught in schools throughout grade levels and the curriculum

Vigor not rigor

Unpack and interrogate the socio-political construct of the Achievement Gap

Question high stakes standardized testing and find a replacement that is not political

Pedagogy of Recognition: Placing recognition at the center of teaching and learning

Redefine the purpose of schools located in the circumstances of poverty

Strength-Based Learning Plan: A proposal to dismantle normalcy in schools

Civic Literacy: What does a multi-racial multi ethnic constitutional democratic republic require of its schools?

First Amendment Schools: Where students practice the Five Freedom in their schools

Add Citizenship to the IPS Education for Career and College mission

Students on school boards of their Marion County public schools

Stop comparing charters and traditional public schools

Return oversight and voting on Mayor Hogsett's charters to the City-County Council

Does Indianapolis really want an entirely privatized public school system?