

EDUCATION

Promoting Educational Excellence: An NAACP Priority

Education is universally acknowledged as one of the most effective strategies in combating poverty. Educational achievements, and the accompanying opportunities that become available, have been proven to lift individuals and families out of poverty, and help empower communities. From its establishment, the NAACP has recognized the long-term benefits of investing in education, and has made promoting educational excellence a cornerstone of its advocacy efforts.

The NAACP works to ensure that all students have access to equal and high-quality public education. Key to accomplishment of this goal is elimination of all education-related racial and ethnic disparities. The NAACP has made advocacy training, policy development, and building collaborative networks central in its efforts to help ensure equality in education. Areas of focus include school resource equity, strengthening teacher quality, promoting smaller classes, advancing early childhood education, and encouraging family and parental engagement.

The educational initiatives of the Brooklyn Branch are guided by the overall policies of the national NAACP, and are spearheaded by its Education Committee. The committee is tireless in its advocacy for effective, accountable and accessible public school systems, and for adequate and equitable school funding. The support for and promotion of teacher certification, and the active involvement of parents in the education of their children, are important dimensions of the committee's work.

School Resource Equity

For too long quality public education for African-Americans and other minority communities has been threatened because of inequity in school funding. It has been established that often more affluent school districts have higher per pupil expenditures than low-income districts. The Brooklyn Branch is committed to working with partners to reduce and eliminate resource disparities in Brooklyn, New York State and the entire nation.

Strengthening Teacher Quality

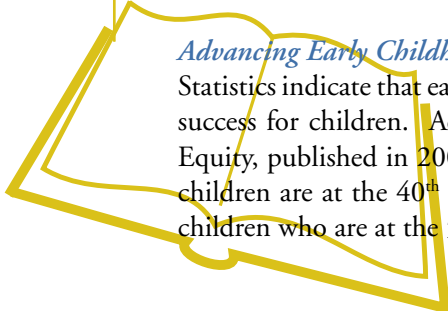
Increasing teacher quality is a major focus of the national NAACP and the Brooklyn Branch. Research shows that approximately 78 percent of math teachers are teaching outside their subject area in schools with high concentrations of minority students. This is unacceptable. The Brooklyn Branch is committed to promoting teacher certification, and equipping teachers with resources so they can provide students with the high-quality education they deserve.

Promoting Smaller Class Sizes

The Brooklyn Branch believes that access to adequate and appropriate education is both a human right and a constitutional right. Research shows that reducing class sizes in public schools has multiple beneficial effects. It can increase student learning, reduce teacher attrition, motivate students, decrease school dropout rates, and lead to greater parental involvement. It is a strategy to help narrow the achievement gap between children from different backgrounds and ethnic groups. Working with partners, the Brooklyn Branch will accelerate advocacy efforts to ensure that African-American and other minority students are provided with an environment and class sizes that promote and strengthen learning.

Advancing Early Childhood Education

Statistics indicate that early childhood education is an important predictor of future academic and emotional success for children. According to a report from the First Teachers College Symposium on Educational Equity, published in 2005 by Teachers College at Columbia University, New York City, on average, Black children are at the 40th percentile of school readiness or early childhood preparation, compared to White children who are at the 57th percentile.



The report asserted that “A child who is exposed to reading, books, computers and supervised play before he or she starts school is advantaged both academically and socially. These advantages have been shown to persist beyond just the early grades.” The Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP will work with partners to support, advance and enhance early childhood education.

Family and Parental Engagement

Parental involvement is critical to the educational success of children. The Brooklyn Branch is committed to helping parents become more involved in the education of their children. Through its Back to School/Stay in School Program, the Brooklyn Branch supports and helps to initiate activities that facilitate and strengthen parental engagement in their children’s education.

Partnership Building

The Education Committee of the Brooklyn Branch has made partnership building an important dimension of its activities. The committee has worked with many partners, including The New York City Department of Education, The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, *Today’s Child Magazine*, Scholastic Corporation, Brooklyn Public Library, St. Rosalia-Regina Pacis Neighborhood Improvement Association, Nike and the National Basketball Association (NBA).

The Education Committee is also working with Crossroads, a juvenile detention center in Brooklyn. The committee is helping to establish a library, and will be implementing a tutoring and mentorship program at the center. The Brooklyn Branch is determined to help break the vicious cycle of poverty, instability, poor academic preparation, destructive behaviors, and weak support systems that often lead young people to a life of crime.

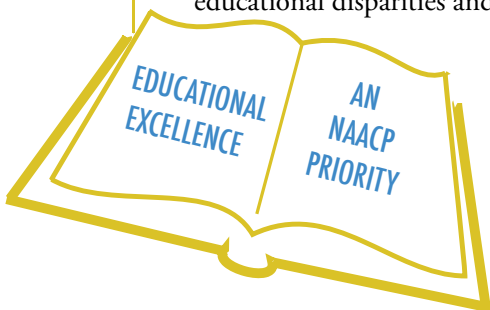
NAACP Programs and Initiatives

In carrying out its educational mandate, the NAACP has launched several national programs and initiatives. Through its *Call for Action in Education State Equity Plans*, the NAACP has called on states to develop five-year plans to reduce educational-related racial disparities by 50 percent. The NAACP’s *Equity Matters* campaign is a national effort to recruit local advocates to annually track, monitor, and submit information to the NAACP that highlight inequities in funding, teacher quality, class size and students’ access to a college-bound curriculum.

Additionally, the NAACP offers many scholarships. These scholarships are intended to spur educational excellence, and help eliminate financial difficulties that impede minority students from achieving their educational goals.

Join the Campaign to Promote Equality of Educational Opportunities for All

The Education Committee of the Brooklyn Branch calls on all to support its continuing campaign to eliminate educational disparities and promote equality of educational opportunities for all. Through its work with partners, advocacy and bold initiatives, the Brooklyn Branch is sending a clear message that education matters. Furthermore, the Brooklyn Branch is ready to help provide academic and social supports necessary for the educational success of all students. The Brooklyn Branch calls on supporters to join the campaign to eliminate educational disparities and promote educational excellence for all in our great nation.



MEMBERSHIP IS OUR LIFEblood!
JOIN ... GIVE ... DO MORE!

NAACP Brooklyn Branch,
26 Court Street, Suite 2205,
Brooklyn, New York 11242

Telephone: 718-243-2040 • Fax: 718-243-2080
Email: contactus@brooklynnaacp.org • www.brooklynnaacp.org