

National Evaluation Institute
Presentation
Educating African American Males:
Voices From the Field

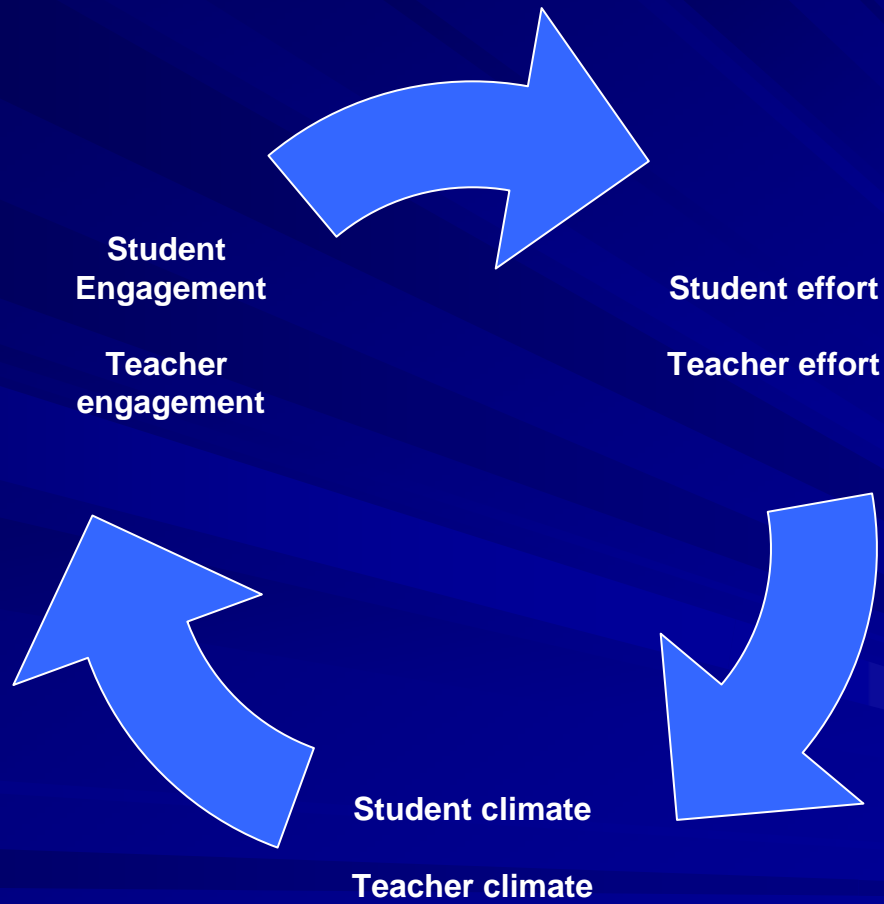
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Concerns about African American Males

- Low performance in school
- Disengagement in school
- Misbehavior in school
- Lack of respect for authority

Results of some of these concerns

- African American students failing in academics
- African American students not learning what they need to learn in order to perform well
- African American students being expelled and suspended at high rates



Climate

- Factors contributing to a positive climate include
 - Teacher - student interactions
 - Student -student interactions
- Results of a positive climate include
 - Positive student-teacher interactions (Ron Ferguson, Claude Steele)
 - Beginning in preschool (student expulsion)
 - Positive student-student interactions (Cynthia Hudley)
 - Reducing A. A. Male Aggression
 - Mutual respect (H. Jerome Freiberg)
 - A sense of belonging (Ferguson & Lee, National Research Council)
 - A sense of efficacy
 - Accomplishment of goals
 - High Expectations (Harter 1986), Claude Steele,
 - Feelings of Safety

Student Engagement

- The ability to reach students “where they are,” and get them to “where they need to be.”
 - Factors affecting student engagement
 - School climate (see previous slide) (Cooper and Jordan race and ethnicity of the teacher)
 - Know where the children are/are coming from: Home environment (Bronfenbrenner, Epstein, Sanders)
 - Social (Coleman), cultural, and experiential capital (Rothstein)
 - EXPECTATION My expectation of you dictates how and why I engage you

Expectation

- Attribution theory
 - Locus of control
 - Internal external
 - Positive negative
 - Stable unstable

Attribution of Success

■ Internal

- Success = because
- Of something inside

external

- success = because
- of something outside

Attribution of success continued

■ Internal

– Positive

- Success = because
- Of something good
- inside (example)

– Negative

- Success = because
- Of something bad
- Inside (example)

external

Negative

success = because
of something bad
outside (example)

Positive

success = because
of something good
outside (example)

Attributions of Success

■ Internal + positive

– Stable

– I am smart

■ Internal + negative

– Unstable

I am lucky

External + negative

Stable

X does not like me

External positive

unstable

I am unlucky

Factors outside the home

- Zone of proximal educational development (ZOPED) “surrounded by a more capable other”
 - Educating A.A. Males: Voices From the Field.
 - Roderick, Cooper and Jordan
 - Scaffolding (Rogoff, Snow)
- Assimilation and accommodation
 - Changing schema, thinking, (Santiago)
 - (social, cultural and experiential capital).

Criteria for Inclusion

- Effectiveness
- Replicability
- Success among African America Males

Examples of Community Based Programs

- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America
- Coca Cola Valued Life Project (Coca Cola VYP)

Which academic afterschool programs have worked?

- Howard Street Tutoring Program
- Helping Other Students to Succeed
- Extended School Day Tutoring Program (Memphis)
- Exemplary Center for Reading Instruction

What types of environments work?

- Structured yet Flexible
- Warm yet disciplined
- Academic and recreational (structured)
- Working/studying in groups (Urie Treisman)
- Scaffolding
- Cross-age tutoring (Valerie Lee, Ron Ferguson)

What do the children want

- Respect
- Warmth
- Ability to impart knowledge

Thank You

- Thank You Marco
- Thank You NEI