



HEAR US, BELIEVE US:

Centering African American Parent Voices in K-12 Education



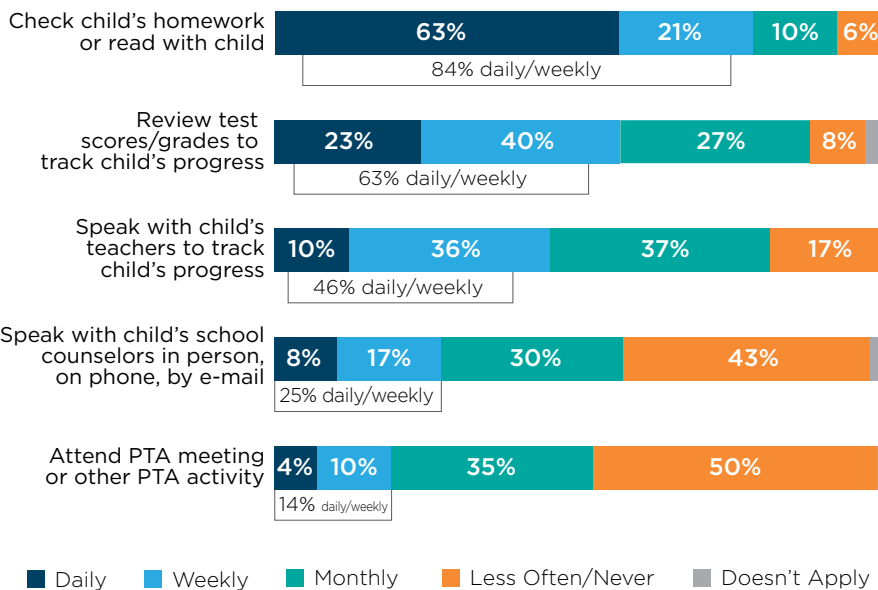
Introduction

This report illuminates the perspectives of African American parents and caregivers on key issues in education, such as race, college readiness, parental engagement and more. To learn more, go to: UNCF.org/ParentVoices

Key Findings

84% of African American parents and caregivers believe it is important that their child attend and graduate from college. Figure 1 shows that African American parents and caregivers are also deeply invested and engaged in their child's education.

FIGURE 1: African American Parent and Caregiver Engagement in Children's Education



Learn more at: UNCF.org/ParentVoices #UNCFK12

To join UNCF's parent e-mail list visit: UNCF.org/Updates

BLACK TEACHER REPRESENTATION:

Across several indicators in the study, Black parents report more positive outcomes when there is increased Black teacher representation at their child's school.

College Aspirations and Black Teachers

Black parents and caregivers have **higher college aspirations for their child when there are more Black teachers** at their child's school compared to schools with little to no Black teachers.

Student Discipline and Black Teachers

Black parents and caregivers report **lower instances of child suspensions when there are more Black teachers** at their child's school compared to schools with little to no Black teachers. For Black parents/caregivers whose children attended schools where many or most teachers were Black, the probability that their child received exclusionary discipline is almost **three times lower** than when their child attended schools with fewer Black teachers.



70% of African American parents and caregivers believe the involvement of African American leaders and organizations will make school improvement efforts more effective.

80% of African American parents and caregivers rank safety as the most important factor for school selection.

91% of African American parents say that expanding social services/supports for students would have a positive effect on students. Teacher pay ranked as the second highest strategy to improve the quality of education for students.

93% of African American parents would like more opportunities to be involved in their child's education and more input into education laws.



Call To Action

Recommendations for the K-12 Sector

1. Invest unapologetically in Black teachers.
2. Create more intentional opportunities for parent involvement.
3. Create a learning environment that reflects African American history and culture.
4. Partner with local organizations to provide resources and services for families.
5. Value and prioritize support staff in school budgets.
6. Prioritize student safety.

Recommendations for Higher Education

1. Make intentional efforts to expose students and families to college opportunities.
2. Create intentional pipelines with districts and charter management organizations for increasing educator diversity.
3. Ensure teacher training programs include anti-racist, culturally relevant teaching practices.
4. Partner with K-12 schools and districts to provide financial aid literacy to students and families.

For more in-depth recommendations, please view full report.

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Hear Us, Believe Us utilizes data from a 2017 nationwide phone survey of 500 low-to-moderate income African American parents and caregivers of school-aged children. Additionally, a subset of parents were surveyed in the following cities: Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Houston, Memphis and New Orleans. In addition to these surveys, two focus groups were facilitated in New Orleans and Atlanta.