



*Lift Every Voice and Lead: African American Leaders' Perceptions of K-12 Education Reform* sheds light on African American community leaders' perspectives toward education reform and how they work to develop community-centered strategies to address disparities. Below are a few key findings. To view the full report, please visit: [UNCF.org/lifteveryvoiceandlead](http://UNCF.org/lifteveryvoiceandlead) #UNCFk12



60%

Nearly 60% of African American **grasstops** listed education as one of the three major problems facing their communities.



88%

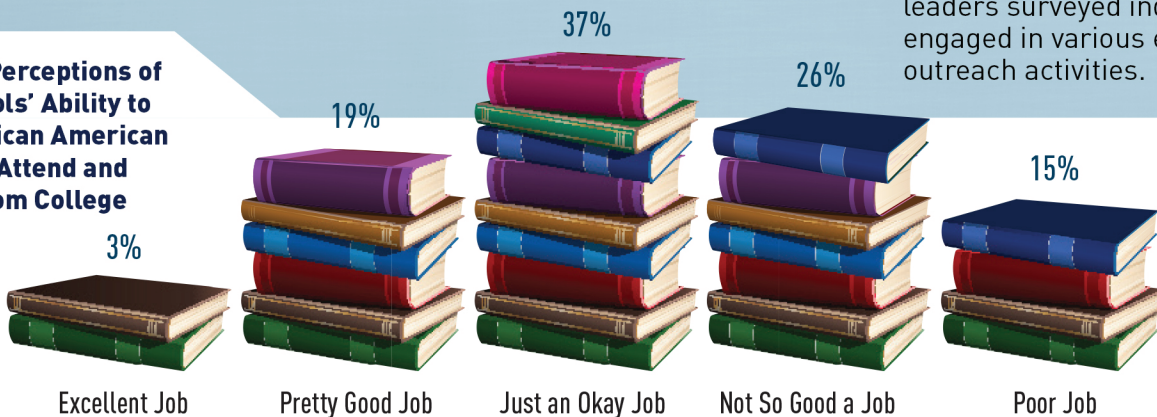
88% of African American **grasstops** believe they have a strong responsibility to help improve the education that African American students receive.



80%

Nearly 80% of African American **grasstops** feel that the African American leaders in their communities are not doing enough to improve education; however, the leaders surveyed indicated they are engaged in various educational outreach activities.

### Grasstops' Perceptions of Public Schools' Ability to Prepare African American Students to Attend and Graduate from College



**2/3** ▶ Nearly two-thirds of African American grasstops are optimistic they can help improve the quality of education for African American students.

Leaders want tools such as toolkits and talking points to help their efforts in improving the quality of education for students.



### CALL TO ACTION

1. **Expand community networks.**
2. **Provide leaders with the tools to advocate for African American youth.**
3. **Champion the message of positive African American community engagement in education.**
4. **Make the Ask. Leaders want to be involved; they just want to see a clear action-oriented strategy in place.**



UNCF enlisted Hart Research Associates to conduct a survey that resulted in 631 survey responses from African American community leaders who live in cities with populations of at least 250,000 and had high densities of African Americans in the summer of 2013. Respondents included non-profit leaders, clergy, business, higher education and political leaders. Additionally, Hart Associates conducted in-depth phone interviews with 36 African American leaders across the country in 2014.