



ASHLEY ELEMENTARY

Black Excellence Newsletter #2



BLACK EXCELLENCE PLAN

In 2019, Denver Public Schools passed the [Black Excellence Resolution](#). As part of the Resolution, each DPS school completes a Black Excellence Plan (BEP), which is a strategic document that allows schools to prioritize Black student success. At the core of BEPs is a commitment to lifting up and highlighting Black Excellence while actively working to dismantle oppressive systems and redesigning for equity, inclusion and Black student success.

Ashley Elementary is working through our BEP for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Improve the social, emotional, and mental health of Black students as measured on the BESS survey. We would like to decrease the percentage of Black students reporting extremely elevated Socio-Emotional health from 18% to less than 15% by the End of the Year. Compared to last academic year, we have already seen some improvement.
- Improve Black student proficiency in math as measured on the District Interim Assessment. We aim to increase MAP test 18% to more than 30% on the District's Interim.
- Increase the number of K-2 Black students on grade level or above as measured by Read ACT data. We aim to increase from 54% to 65% by the End of the Year.

Resources



The Black Education Advisory Council (BEAC) will be a group of Denver Public Schools community members who value and honor the richness and diversity that our Black cultures bring to the educational system in Denver Public Schools. DPS parents, guardians, students, educators, community members, district employees, and other stakeholders who believe in diversity and equality for all students are encouraged to apply.

The purpose of the BEAC is to lead and influence positive change. BEAC seeks to improve educational opportunities and to provide quality education for all students, particularly students of Black heritage.

BEAC cadence of monthly meetings and the format (virtual or in-person meetings) will soon be established.

Other resources

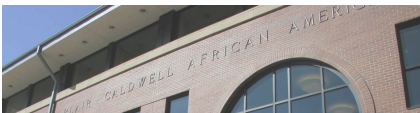
Checkout the **Black History Month** DPS Resources webpage here: [Black History Month](#)



Denver Public Schools: History & Culture

The history of Denver Public Schools follows the challenges and accomplishments made by individuals within Denver's Black and African community. It is important to explore history to deepen personal awareness. As awareness is deepened, commitment to keep this history relevant will uplift and enrich a personal experience and journey that is meaningful.

See link here: <https://www.dpsk12.org/o/celt/page/history-and-culture-resources>



BLAIR-CALDWELL LIBRARY A BRIEF HISTORY



Blair-Caldwell Denver Public Library

The Denver Public Library Commission named the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. Former Mayor Wellington Webb and First Lady Wilma Webb proposed the name, which combines the last names of Omar Blair, the first black president of the Denver school board, and Elvin Caldwell, the first black City Council member.

This particular library has pictures, artifacts, documents and a whole level dedicated to African American History. *Ashley students will visit soon!*

More information:

<https://history.denverlibrary.org/about-blair-caldwell-african-american-research-library>

Black American History Museum & Heritage Center

The Museum is housed in the former home of Dr. Justina L. Ford, the first licensed African American female physician in the state of Colorado.

While famous for telling the story of the Black cowboys, the museum tells the stories of those early African Americans who came west and performed as miners, soldiers, homesteaders, ranchers, blacksmiths, schoolteachers, lawmen, and every other profession needed to build up and develop the West.



Other resources: Free Child (3-17) Mental Health Therapy

- o <https://www.denvercac.org/restore-childhood/>