

Dear Partner,

Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) is excited to announce our pilot African American Male Initiative (AAMI), and we write to invite you to participate. Based on your district's/school's leadership, outcomes from our work together to date, and areas of promise/room for growth, we see this as an opportunity to learn with you, try new tactics to better serve African American males and build upon our organizational best practices that can lead to impact across all partners.

The Why

This initiative is borne out of EOS' organizational recognition, based upon our longitudinal data, that we struggle to support and engage African American males to the degree required through our standard process. Through regular and rigorous impact assessments focused on African American males, we have found that African American males are disproportionately under-enrolled from Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP[®]/IB) courses, less likely to experience a sense of belonging, less likely to appear on AP/IB outreach lists, less likely to receive outreach and less likely to receive teacher recommendations.

The What

This is a call to action. We need your help. While our traditional work is steeped in the rigorous coursework experiences of students of color and low-income students more broadly, the AAMI will serve as a critical and explicit initiative that centers the empowerment and affirmation of African American male students in particular. Accordingly, the AAMI seeks to partner with dynamic districts that have a desire and commitment to delve deeper into their systemic, cultural and environmental equity issues, with AP/IB enrollment of African American males as the anchor.

The How

The key question AAMI asks is: how can we evolve our model and our practices to center the needs of African American male students and drive for maximum impact? We will ask this question via pursuit of a Learning Agenda and piloting this work with critical partners like you. Through community-centered, data-informed processes, AAMI will develop collective impact responses alongside school partners; evaluate these responses for effectiveness and scaling; and measure school, district, and EOS-organizational impacts on African American males.

The Who

If you are committed to the success of African American male students, we believe that you can push us further in support of a mission to empower and support African American male students and improve their experiences in rigorous course programs. Recognizing that no single person or entity has all of the answers, we envision this pilot as an incubator for real critical reflection, discourse, and journeying.

To pledge your commitment to African American males through participation in our initiative, please visit: [AAMI Sign-up](#). Please be sure to note in the comments that you Stand with AAMI.

Sincerely,

Marquise Roberson
AAMI Lead
Partnership Director