



Board of Education

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street
Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Board Report

25-0424-RS5

Agenda Date: 4/24/2025

RESOLUTION CODIFYING THE CREATION OF THE BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING AARON "JITU" BROWN AS CHAIR

WHEREAS, Pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-18.85, the Chicago Board of Education Black Student Achievement Committee ("Committee") is created to be a standing committee of the Chicago Board of Education ("Board") with the purpose of providing Black students with the maximum opportunity for success in areas where research shows that there has been chronic underperformance of African American students during their elementary and secondary education experience;

WHEREAS, The Board will adhere to 105 ILCS 5/34-18.85, which requires that the Committee develop strategies and recommendations for Black student achievement and opportunity; use data to conduct an evidence-based needs assessment to better understand needs and establish a baseline for Black student achievement; develop a strategic management plan to identify goals, objectives, and outcomes designed to bring about academic parity between Black children and their peers; identify and track metrics and key performance indicators that demonstrate positive movement toward achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategic management plan; prepare and provide regular progress reports to the Board and the public;

WHEREAS, The Black Student Success Working Group leveraged many sources of data, which showed disparities between Black students and other student groups persist in our school district today, including in the following areas: discipline (particularly suspensions and expulsions), academic achievement, and access to highly rigorous academic courses, opportunities, and extracurricular activities. This data shows that our Black students are often the ones furthest from opportunity. We envision a future where all of our Black students have the support they need to earn a college degree, thrive in a family-sustaining career, give back to their communities, and inspire the students who follow in their footsteps;

WHEREAS, With community input and feedback, Chicago Public Schools ("CPS") created the Black Student Success Plan ("BSSP"), launched in February 2025, which sets a clear path forward for the next five years, with a focus on immediate action and long-term sustainability for driving student success;

WHEREAS, In order to facilitate effective partnership between the Board, CPS and the community on matters pertaining to black student success, the Board President selects Aaron "Jitu" Brown to chair the Committee;

WHEREAS, In accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-18.85, the Board President will name members of the Committee. The Committee's membership shall be diverse in terms of skills and geography. Committee members will be from various Chicago neighborhoods and be representative of those with relevant lived experience, elementary and high schools expertise, different academic disciplines and qualifications, trusted community organizations, and diverse perspectives of Black students.

WHEREAS, The Committee will consist of CPS parents, special education advocates, CPS educators, and other stakeholders with a broad range of experiences related to black student success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago Board of Education hereby resolves the following:

1. Aaron “Jitu” Brown is hereby appointed to serve as the Chair of the Committee. This appointment shall remain in effect until such time as the Board appoints a new Board Member to Chair the Committee.
2. The Committee will work collaboratively with advisors from various CPS departments, including but not limited to, the Chief Education Office, Office of Equity, Office for Students with Disabilities, Office of College and Career Services, Office of Social and Emotional Learning, Office of Teaching and Learning, Office of Alumni Affairs, Talent Office, Innovation & Incubation, and Office of Early Childhood Education.
3. The Committee will work collaboratively with external advisors, including but not limited to, CPS Administrators, the Chicago Teachers Union, Chicago Principals & Administrators Association, the Juvenile Justice Division, and community organizations that specialize in sustainable community schools, project-based learning, housing, economics, and entrepreneurship.