



African American Academic Acceleration

Our Vision

Through coordinated and collaborative efforts grounded in best practices that are well researched and District adaptive, we are committed to providing a rigorous and responsive academic learning environment focused on educating the whole student and that will result in the following outcomes:

- Our students will read at or above grade level
- Our students will rise in performance in math and science
- Our students will increase high school graduation rates and post-secondary and career-readiness.

Who is Involved?

We have successfully enlisted both locally based and nationally recognized instruction and curriculum experts, service providers and community stakeholders, each with a unique perspective and subject matter expertise, to inform our strategies for improving student and parent engagement and program participation.

What have we Accomplished?

- In February 2018, we organized the District's first Black College Expo, with more than 25 historically black colleges and universities represented. More than 400 students attended, with colleges making over 200 offers of admissions and awarding nearly \$1 million in scholarships.
- In March 2018, we launched an Academic Advisor program, a pilot at middle and high schools to provide personalized academic support and monitoring for African American students.
- In May 2018, we held a district-wide Father's Day at 18 elementary schools that successfully engaged more than 300 fathers and male role models in the lives of our students.
- In June 2018, we launched a five-week summer literacy program, where our students ranked #1 in the nation with the largest reading growth, besting districts in New York, Baltimore, D.C., Oakland and more.
- July 2018, we started the Early Learning Summer Academy, a pilot designed to improve literacy levels of targeted incoming first graders, to provide a smooth transition into the 2018/19 school year.

Our Programs

- Tutoring for Suspended Students (Spring 2019)
- College Mentoring Program (Spring 2019)
- Father's Day for Middle Schools (Spring 2019)
- Summer Literacy Program (Summer 2019) and much more focused on academics...

Get Involved

Contact Brittney Watters at brittney.watters@fresnounified.org or (559) 457-3802.

Our Motivation

In September 2017, Fresno Unified launched a new initiative to identify and address the fundamental causes for the discrepancy in academic outcomes between African American students and other subgroups of the student population. While experiencing overall increases in student graduation rates, Advanced Placement course enrollment, and the total number of college and university applications completed, the District recognized that African American students were not experiencing these positive trends at the same rate.

Concurrently, the District has consistently suspended and expelled African American students at disproportionately high rates, while also seeing higher truancy among this subgroup. Having made these observations, Fresno Unified recognized an underlying need to accelerate its efforts to justly serve African American students.

