



## Executive Summary

**Inside the School** series: *Breaking Barriers: 2-Part Series with Ivory Toldson*

**Senior Research Analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus, Ivory Toldson, Ph.D. presents a two-part professional series that reviews research-based methods to help black males achieve academic success and educators understand and eliminate school violence.**

### ***Part 1: Breaking Barriers: How Teachers Can Help Black Males Achieve***

Help African-American Males Achieve Academic Success

The declining graduation rate of black males is a national problem and getting worse. The current high school graduation rate for black males hovers around the 50% mark according to the Open Society Institute's Campaign for Black Male Achievement. This trend can be reversed with the commitment of educators who can influence these young men and encourage them to succeed.

Inside the School's online seminar *Breaking Barriers: How Teachers Can Help Black Males Achieve* presents practical applications educators can use to reach out and help school-aged African-American males succeed.

Presenter Dr. Ivory Toldson will review the findings from national surveys and explain how they can be used as classroom solutions. His research discusses the importance of personal, emotional, social and school factors and how those factors impacts academic success for black males.

Toldson will discuss a first-hand experience an educator had on him as a student and how that teacher steered him on a path to academic success. Toldson will review the importance of building relationships with students and give advice on how to act as a long-term guide to them.

In *Breaking Barriers: How Teachers Can Help Black Males Achieve* you will review factors that have been linked to academic achievement in black males. These factors are:

- Personal and emotional factors, including emotional well being and self-esteem, future aspirations, nutrition, peer relationships and substance use
- Family factors, including household composition, parents' education and parents' relationship with children
- Social and environmental factors, including economic standing, population density, the juvenile justice system, and civic, community, school-based and extracurricular activities
- School factors, including perceptions of school, relationships with teachers and school safety

## ***Part 2: Breaking Barriers: Reducing Gang Violence, Improving Security and Creating a Culture of Learning in Schools***

Establish priorities and review the best practices for educators in schools with violence and other gang-related activity

Currently, more than one third of all students from 5th-12th grade report gang activity at their schools. *Breaking Barriers: Reducing Gang Violence, Improving Security and Creating a Culture of Learning in Schools* will highlight original analyses of nearly 4,600 students who completed the National Crime Victimization Study - School Crime Supplement. From that study, educators will learn ways to guide students away from gang violence and toward academic success.

Presenter Dr. Ivory Toldson shares characteristics of students and schools most likely to be affected by school violence, and the effectiveness of commonly implemented school violence reduction strategies. The seminar will emphasize the emotional toll school violence has on students, and how teachers, counselors, and school administrators can create an environment to help students overcome violence-related stress and enjoy higher levels of academic success.

*Breaking Barriers* will discuss the increased anxiety, lower levels of academic achievement and satisfaction among students and how educators can support student success. Educators will review practices for confronting school violence and explore the unintended consequences of violence awareness.

In ***Breaking Barriers: Reducing Gang Violence, Improving Security and Creating a Culture of Learning in Schools*** you will review:

- Shared characteristics of students and schools most likely to be affected by school violence
- The efficacy of commonly implemented school violence reduction strategies, such as metal detectors and violence prevention programs
- The emotional toll school violence has on students and school personnel
- How educators, counselors, and school administrators can cultivate an environment to help students overcome violence-related stress and enjoy higher levels of academic success and school satisfaction

### **About the Series...**

In the 2-part-series, ***Breaking Barriers***, the entire school staff can watch the presentation as a group for staff development training or they can watch it on their preparation hours from the convenience of their own home. Your entire school district will have the 2-part-series at their fingertips for years to come.

The seminar is presented in a special browser window that features a slide show presentation in one panel and sound and playback controls in another panel. The seminar can be viewed on a single computer screen or be projected onto a larger one for a group setting.

The entire 2-part package is delivered in one convenient binder that contains the CDs, handout materials and transcripts.

### **Who would benefit from this series?**

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Counselors
- Support staff members

- School psychologists
- Community Stakeholders

### **More about Ivory Toldson**

**Dr. Ivory A. Toldson** is an associate professor at Howard University, Senior Research Analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Editor-In-Chief of The Journal of Negro Education, the country's oldest black continuous publication. Dr. Toldson is the author of *Breaking Barriers: Plotting the Path to Academic Success for School-age African-American Males*. He has held visiting research appointments at Emory, Drexel, and Morehouse School of Medicine.

### **An exceptional value**

The cost for the 2-part series is only **\$399**. Your entire school can receive this valuable training for one low price.

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#39-1286980