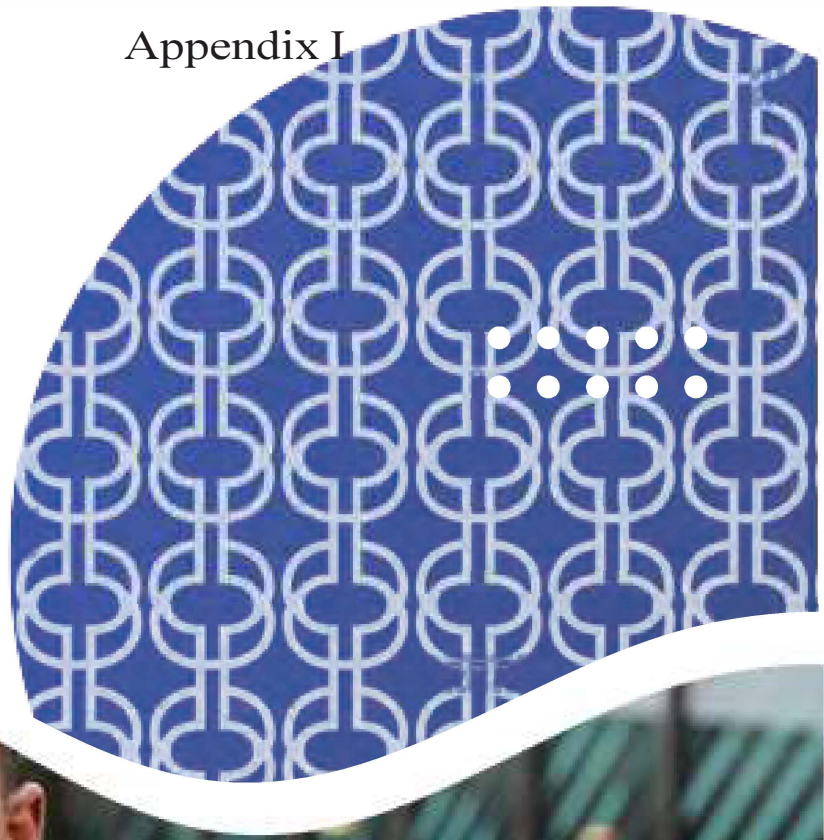




Centre of  
**Excellence** for  
**Black Student**  
Achievement

Appendix I



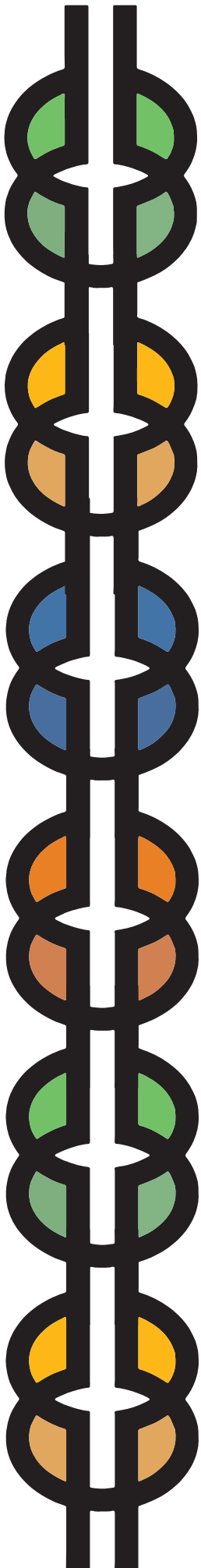
2023-2024  
**PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING  
MENU**

## ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK RACISM

### IN CONVERSATION SERIES

Featuring various experts and community advocates, including some with lived experience, these conversations offer insight to respond to and address diverse issues tied to discrimination and promoting human rights.

<b>ACKNOWLEDGING INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT</b>	September 2023 - December 2023
<p>In collaboration with Model Schools for Inner City and the Parent and Community Engagement Office, this initiative recognizes the history of people of African Descent critically exploring key areas including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy of Enslavement and Genocide</li> <li>• African Canadian History Within Curriculum</li> <li>• Black Canadian Resistance and Resilience</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Students, Caregivers and Community</p>	
<b>FILM AND TEXT SERIES</b>	September 2023 - June 2024
<p>In collaboration with the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community &amp; Diaspora, English/Literacy, and the Equity, Anti-Racism &amp; Anti-Oppression team, this series uses film and text to explore the experiences of Black and racialized communities in Canada. This series includes a virtual screening of the film along with a conversation with the director/producer and/or author. Key texts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steadfast: The Messenger and the Message - Jean Augustine</li> <li>• Beyond Their Years - Herb Carnegie and Buck O'Neil</li> <li>• CBC: Black Life Untold Stories - More Than A Game</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Students, Caregivers and Community</p>	
<b>EXPLORING INTERSECTIONS OF RACE AND CREED</b>	September 2023 - June 2024
<p>In collaboration with community partners such as the National Council for Canadian Muslims (NCCM), Facing History and Ourselves, and No Silence On Race, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement and the Equity, Anti-Racism, and Anti-Oppression Teams offer diverse professional learning experiences for TDSB staff, students and caregivers. Sessions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCCM - providing a broader understanding of Islam and Muslim communities to promote anti-Islamophobia pedagogical practices with a focus on Black Muslim communities.</li> <li>• No Silence On Race &amp; Facing History - examining the ethnic diversity within Jewish communities through the film Periphery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Students, Caregivers and Community</p>	

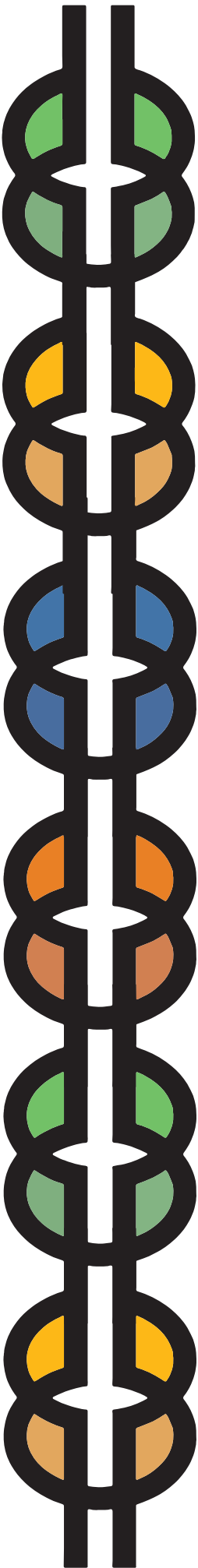




**2023-2024**

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

## MENU



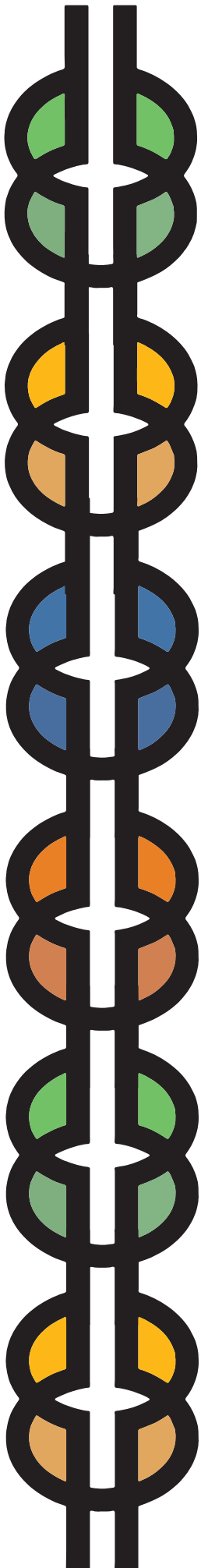
<b>HEALING-CENTRED ENGAGEMENT SERIES</b>	December 2023 - June 2024
<p>In collaboration with various community partners and service providers offering African Indigenous healing-centred experiences, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement offers a variety of experiences to build an understanding of the diverse areas encompassing Black Mental Health and Wellness. This series focuses exclusively on the 2023-2024 collaborative inquiry of the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement: In what ways might we identify, develop and facilitate culturally responsive and relevant healing practices for Black students, staff, families and communities? Some of the areas of focus include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining the Impact of Racial Trauma</li> <li>• Black Mental Health for Students and Caregivers</li> <li>• NCCM: Culturally Responsive Healing for Black Muslims</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Students, Caregivers and Community</p>	
<b>LET'S TALK ABOUT THE N-WORD: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING VIDEOS AND 2-PART SERIES</b>	November 2023 - June 2024 and Asynchronous
<p>The Human Rights Office in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement created a series of professional learning videos and resources for staff to learn more about the N-word. This video series educates staff about the N-word, its historical context and impact on the Black community and educational spaces, as well as providing guidance on the TDSB's official stance on the N-word. This series further equips staff with the resources and information needed to make informed and educated decisions when it comes to addressing and discussing the N-word with staff and students when it arises. In addition to this video series, the Center of Excellence offers a 2-day professional learning opportunity designed to address both historical and present-day contexts of the N-word, while building staff capacity to talk about and navigate conversations around racial slurs and specifically, the N-word.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff</p>	
<b>TDSB HUMAN LIBRARY PODCAST: CONVERSATIONS AROUND BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS AND EXCELLENCE</b>	Asynchronous
<p>Season 2 introduces leading scholars, emerging thinkers, and fellow educators passionate about creating learning spaces dedicated to Black student success, well-being, and positive racial identity. This edition by the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement highlights strategies that support meaningful engagement and advocacy of caregivers and communities and offers guidance with navigating the education system. Some of the topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Consultations: Honouring the Voices of Community</li> <li>• In Conversation with Karen Murray: Building a Better Future for Black Students</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Caregivers and Community</p>	

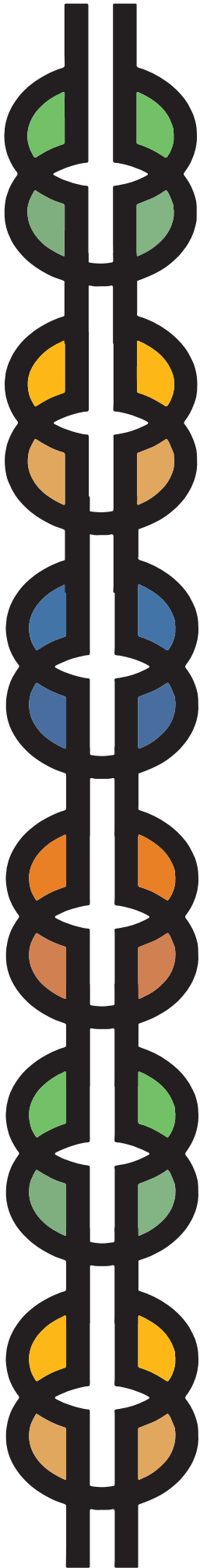


## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Through synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities, TDSB Staff develop their equitable leadership competencies and engage in critical conversations that promote Black student achievement and wellbeing.

<b>RACIAL LITERACY FOUNDATIONAL SERIES</b>	September 2023 - April 2024
<p>This three-part professional learning series hosted by the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement focuses on developing a leader's capacity in addressing anti-Black racism within school communities. Through this experience, educators build their understanding of key terminology encompassing anti-racist work and engage in critical self-reflection as they build their facilitation skills in engaging in conversations about anti-Black racism. Session dates led by Dr. Nicole</p> <p>West-Burns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall/Winter Sessions: October 24, January 16, and January 30</li> <li>• Winter/Spring Sessions: February 14, March 27, and April 24</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Dr. Nicole West-Burns <b>Audience:</b> All Staff</p>	
<b>HOW TO ADDRESS THE N-WORD PROFESSIONAL LEARNING 2-PART SERIES</b>	November 2023 - June 2024
<p>The Human Rights Office in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement created a series of professional learning videos and resources for staff to learn more about the N-word. Building on this video series, the Centre of Excellence has created a 2-part synchronous learning experience, How to Address the Use of the N-Word, to educate staff about the N-Word, its historical context and its impact on the Black community and educational spaces. Through this experience, school teams will receive guidance on the TDSB's official stance on the N-word and gain an understanding of the historical and present-day contexts while building staff capacity to talk about navigating conversations around the N-word. Session dates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall/Winter Sessions: November 28 and December 14, 2023</li> <li>• Spring Sessions: March 6 and March 26, 2024</li> <li>• Summer Sessions: May 16 and May 29, 2024</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> All Staff</p>	
<b>BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS AND EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE</b>	November 2023 - June 2024
<p>Black Student Success and Excellence (BSSE) Initiative: In its sixth year, the Black Students Success and Excellence initiative is an integral component of the Toronto District School Board's ongoing commitment to the teaching and learning experiences of Black students. BSSE continues to go deeper with its collaboration with elementary and secondary school communities in 22 schools across the TDSB. Collaborative learning sessions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 5th: Launch of the 6th year of Black Student Success and Excellence</li> <li>• January 23rd: Disrupting Racism/Anti-Black Racism As Educators: Presence, Pedagogy, &amp; Practice with Dr. Andrew B. Campbell (Dr. ABC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> BSSE Staff</p>	





<b>MUSLIM STUDENT ALLIANCE CONFERENCE</b>	May 15, 2024
<p>This inaugural MSA Conference is dedicated to empowering the vibrant voices of Muslim students and supporting them to embrace their identities with pride and purpose. In collaboration with Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute, the Equity Department (Equity and Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement) hosted 350 Muslim students representing 32 Muslim Student Alliances across the TDSB. Students came together to discover the richness of Islamic culture, cultivate community and belonging through dialogue, and foster an environment of solidarity and support.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various <b>Audience:</b> TDSB Students</p>	
<b>ABC'S OF LITERACY WORKSHOP</b>	January 2024
<p>This session for parents, caregivers and families, provides an overview of the revised Ontario Language Curriculum, Grades 1-8. In addition, key strategies for nurturing literacy lives both at school and home will be shared with attendees. This is aligned with the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) focus to embed the intentional teaching of foundational reading skills into rich learning experiences that build upon children's strengths, interests, passions, lived experiences and identities.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Various, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement Staff <b>Audience:</b> TDSB Caregivers and Community</p>	
<b>STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE</b>	October 28, 2023
<p>The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with the TDSB's Research and Development Department and Continuing Education - Focus on Youth Toronto Program (FOYT) hosted its second annual student-led Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Conference: Using Student Voice to Inform School Policies and Practices. Seventeen exciting presentations across eight panels focused on themes including Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, Creating a Culture for Black Student Wellbeing and equitable learning opportunities for Black students.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> TDSB Students <b>Audience:</b> All Staff, Students, Caregivers and Community</p>	
<b>CENTRING BLACK STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	October 21-22, 2023
<p>In collaboration with the Parents and Caregivers Engagement Office during the Parents and Caregivers as Partners 2023 Conference provided families, caregivers and community members an opportunity to engage in an intimate conversation with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement. This session discussed innovative programming and strategies rooted in Black Joy and Excellence, highlighted opportunities for ongoing collaboration and partnership. Participants also receive a guided tour of the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement Staff <b>Audience:</b> TDSB Caregivers and Community</p>	

**WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS**

December 2023 - April 2024

This series seeks to support Black caregivers, along with caregivers raising Black children with meaningful engagement and advocacy for their children in TDSB schools and programs. Through collaborations with various TDSB Departments and community partners, Webinar Wednesdays aims to support system navigation processes for Black families and caregivers, alongside communication about Black student success. Topics include:

- December 6, 2023: Understanding Post-Secondary Pathways - Supporting Black Student Success
- March 6, 2024: Pathways to Skilled Trades

**Facilitators:** Various, Graduation Coaches for Black Students

**Audience:** TDSB Caregivers and Community

**DEEPENING INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING SERIES**

Ongoing

To support ongoing educator capacity, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement will explore with the system learning experiences that centre Black-affirming pedagogical practices. Topics include:

- Black-Affirming Practices (offered to and in collaboration with various TDSB Departments)
- Synchronous Student Learning Experiences
- November 28, 30, and December 13: Data Dunkers - Exploring basketball through sports analytics and coding
- November 30: Steadfast: The Jean Augustine Story - Screening and Conversation with the Honorable Jean Augustine
- February 13: Beyond Their Years - Herb Carnegie Film Screening and Panel Conversation
- March 21: Honouring the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with Dwayne Morgan, OOnt

**Facilitators:** Various

**Audience:** All Staff

**ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING SESSIONS - CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Ongoing

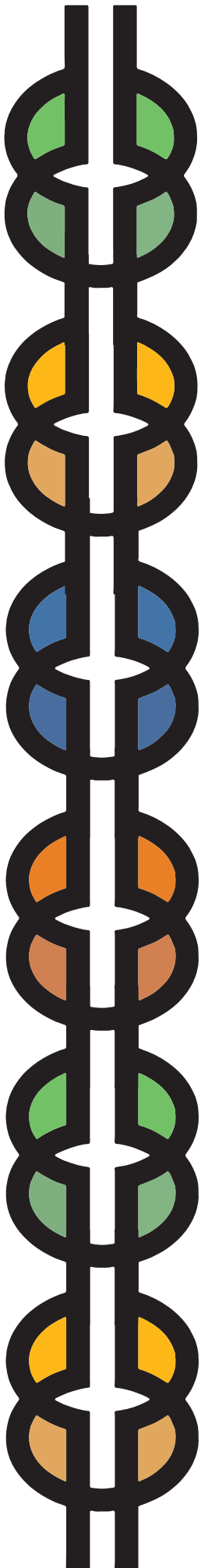
The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement team offers a menu of professional learning opportunities for TDSB staff, caregivers and community members. Some examples of these professional learning experiences include:

- Dr. Afua Cooper - Legacy and Excellence of Black Canadian History
- Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon: African Canadian History in Curriculum
- Author Lawrence Hill - Identity Loss and Formation with TDSB Educators
- Dr. George Dei - African Elders and Eldership
- Show Me Literacy - Sankofa Black Heritage Collection Teacher's Guide (Episode 1)
- Show Me Literacy - Black Girls' Book Club: Creating Courageous Spaces for Black Sisterhood (Episode 3)

Please visit the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement [website](#) for a fulsome description and access to the asynchronous learning opportunities using TDSB credentials.

**Facilitators:** Various

**Audience:** All Staff



## COURSES

TDSB staff are offered diverse professional development courses ranging from 8-hour opportunities to 125-hour accredited additional qualifications. These courses support instructional programming, increase experiences of belonging for students and build relationships and partnerships with families, caregivers, and communities.

<b>ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION COURSE: ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK RACISM IN PEDAGOGY AND PRACTICE</b>	Summer 2023 & Summer 2024
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These Additional Qualification courses, Addressing Anti-Black Racism to Change Pedagogy and Practice, Part 1 and Part 2 are created to disrupt and to provide opportunities for educators to self-reflect, deepen knowledge, and build competencies as leaders.

**Hours:** 125

**Audience:** All Staff

