

The Ten Elements of Black Excellence: A Foundation for Success in LBUSD



LBUSD
Excellence and Equity

1) Embracing Black Identity



The Roots & Wings Program

An evening enrichment program for middle schoolers that centers Black culture and history, exploring contributions often omitted from traditional classrooms.



I AM ME Elementary Support

A program for 4th and 5th graders that successfully builds cultural pride and personal agency, with 99% attendance across school sites.

2) Empowering Genius

\$1 MILLION+ in College Scholarships

Juniors and seniors were awarded over \$1M in scholarships during the HBCU College Fair at Long Beach Polytechnic High School.



Targeted Math Interventions

After-school homework and math support groups at Hoover and Stanford Middle Schools focused on increasing Algebra 1 pass rates for Black male students.

3) Encouraging Authenticity



Queen to Queen Affinity Space

A dedicated program at Lakewood High School for Black female students to foster belonging, confidence, and authentic engagement.



Black Student Listening Sessions

High school sessions that center student voice to identify barriers to school climate and develop site-based action steps.

4) Overcoming Systemic Barriers



Liberatory Design Labs

Professional learning series where schools and departments use "Liberatory Design" to problem-solve specific concerns regarding Black student achievement.



Dismantling Anti-Black Language

Specific professional development for staff and counselors focused on addressing the "n-word" and other harmful language in K-12 settings.

6) Intergenerational Wisdom



Sankofa Parent Village

A collaborative space for caregivers to build relationships, share experiences, and engage in community dialogue.



The Sankofa A-G Project

A partnership with CSULB that provides middle school families with college exposure grounded in culturally relevant programming.

5) Uplifting Community



Black Graduation Celebration

A major districtwide event that celebrates student achievement, cultural pride, and community connection across all sites.



My Brother's Keeper Partnership

Monthly meetings in collaboration with the City of Long Beach to provide mentorship and support for Black male students.

7) Advocacy and Awareness



HBCU Ambassador Student Groups

Student-led groups at the CBSE that build leadership skills and increase collective knowledge of college admissions and advocacy.



Voices of Cabrillo Initiative

A storytelling platform designed to elevate positive narratives from students and alumni to counteract negative perceptions.

8) Health and Well-Being



Transformative SEL (T-SEL)

Social-emotional learning focused on the cultivation of well-being, agency, and collective striving through a pro-Black lens.



I AM ME Growth Outcomes

Participating students showed significant growth in emotional awareness, peer relationships, and positive decision-making.

9) Liberating Greatness



District-First HBCU Football Combine

An innovative event at LB Poly High connecting student-athletes with HBCU recruiters to discuss academic eligibility and college pathways.



Elite College Exposure

Direct recruiter presentations from Stanford University and Brown University hosted at the CBSE to expose students to highly selective pathways.

10) Beauty and Joy



Black History Talent Show

A district-supported event celebrating student creativity, performance, and the communal expression of happiness.



Multi-Genre Student Storytelling

Using podcasts (Black1X), murals, and "vibe-y" music to create an environment where Black joy is a constant celebration of life.