



# **Community Organization Proposals to Support Students Who Identify as Black/African American**

Mark Cerutti, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services & Schools  
Meeting of the Board of Education  
June 22, 2021

# Background

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- EGUSD recently received information from three community organizations that included proposals to support students who identify as Black/African American.

# Agenda Item Format

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- Review of community organizations' proposals.
- Leadership from each of the organizations is in attendance to respond to Board questions.
- The Board of Education is asked to identify any proposals or components of proposals that may be of interest, and if applicable, direct staff to partner with the identified community organization/s in order to ensure the scope of services and related budget is in alignment with District contractual requirements and identified student needs, and bring formalized contract recommendations to the Board of Education.

# Black Youth Leadership Project

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*Educate and empower Black youth to effect change and achieve their goals*

*Establish a strong support network for Black youth and liaise between EGUSD and families to advocate for Black youth*

*Reduce discipline disproportionality for Black students & increase parent engagement*

# Black Youth Leadership Project

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- **MISSION**

- Black Youth Leadership Project (BYLP) aims to help youth and their families address of myriad of issues like racism, teacher targeting, and bias implementation/enforcement of policies that result in unfair suspensions, expulsions, and arrests of Black students across school campuses. Their programs are designed to education, explain, and empower youth so they understand the system when they engage and do so with purpose and strategy to effect change and achieve their goals.

- **METHODS**

- Provide consulting services to eliminate disproportionate rates of discipline that impact Black/African American students. Serve as a liaison for Black/African American parents and students, provide educational recommendations and Response to Intervention (RTI), offer advocacy and support, and make recommendations to ensure the intent of current policies are carried out.
- Establish Black Boys' Support Network and Black Girls' Support Network in EGUSD. Host monthly virtual G.O.A.T. (Goals, Organization, Applications, and Transcripts) meetings to help students meet future goals. Provide Art Therapy services. Serve six (6) to 15 families on a monthly basis through the Black Parent Support Network.

# Black Youth Leadership Project

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- **IMPACT**

- Provide EGUSD with additional data on participation and engagement among Black/African American students and families.
- Make recommendations for new or improved restorative justice program implementation and strategies to eliminate discipline disproportionality.
- Improve mental and emotional support for Black/African American students and families on issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reduce suspension/expulsion rates in the district.

# Earth Mama Healing

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*Empower  
emotionally  
strong, socially  
smart, and  
spiritually  
connected youth*

*Facilitate  
leadership and  
risk reduction  
program for  
female-identifying  
youth at 2 high  
schools*

*Improve youth  
self-efficacy and  
develop strong  
connections to  
family, school, and  
community*

# Earth Mama Healing

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- **MISSION**

- Earth Mama Healing, Inc. strives to create emotionally strong, socially smart, and spiritually connected youth and family through youth empowerment opportunities with a focus on health and wellness.

- **METHODS**

- Establish **My Dream Academy** programs at **two (2) EGUSD high schools**. The program offers eight (8) modules throughout the year that focus on targeted topics and include workshops and group discussions. In addition, youth participants will receive ongoing case management, and families can receive home visits and referral assistance to community-based resources. Lastly, program staff will meet monthly with school staff/administrators to share progress reports.

- **IMPACT**

- Improve communication between youth and their parents/guardians and peers;
- Increase number of youth who develop long-term goal plan and continue their education;
- Increase youth self-efficacy and self-love;
- Engage families in their youth's education and well-being.

# Project Optimism

A horizontal bar composed of four colored segments: blue, red, orange, and green.

*Close the achievement gap of at-risk communities*

*Build capacity of and advise BSUs at 4 middle schools*

*Create strong advocates for Black students to improve educational and social equity*

# Project Optimism

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- **MISSION**

- Project Optimism, Inc. works on closing the achievement gap of at-risk communities by offering mentoring programs, personal and professional development, scholarships, and more.

- **METHODS**

- Establish **Project Optimism Leadership Sessions (POLS)** programs at **four (4) EGUSD middle schools**. POLS consulting and professional development activities include developing and guiding the progress of Black Student Unions (BSUs) on each campus. Proposed components include BSU advisor training and consultation as well as a BSU workshop on community building and student leadership development.

- **IMPACT**

- Prepare BSU advisors to develop and grow an inclusive community for middle school Black/African American students in EGUSD;
- Improve cultural awareness of advisors to better serve Black/African American students in EGUSD;
- Create strong advocates for Black/African American students on middle school campuses to improve equity in educational and social activities on campus.

# Board Questions and Discussion

