



BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES:

Examining Teacher and School Counselor Strategies for College Readiness and HBCU Exposure for Students



The school environment plays a significant role in students' decision to apply to college. As such, this study explores the perspectives of teachers, school counselors and students on issues of college readiness and HBCU exposure. Findings reveal the need for more HBCU exposure, intentional student data review, and anti-bias training for staff. Learn more at [UNCF.org/k12advocacy](https://uncef.org/k12advocacy)

Key Findings

- There is a need for more HBCU exposure from teachers and counselors for all students.
- A majority of teachers and counselors in this study reported that they were knowledgeable about HBCUs, however; findings reveal that half of students surveyed were not familiar with HBCUs.
- Teachers who examined disparities in their school's data and encouraged the establishment of fair school policies for all students were also more inclined to support rigorous coursework and higher education opportunities for students of color. However, we also found several instances of teacher bias regarding minority students' post-secondary pathways.

Recommendations:



Recommendations for High Schools and School Districts/Charter Management Organizations (CMOs)

- 1) Provide more exposure to scholarships and financial opportunities for HBCU attendance.
- 2) Provide training for teachers to review student data to identify gaps that may hinder college success.
- 3) Engage school staff in anti-bias training as teacher perceptions of students may impact advising for college opportunities.



Recommendations for HBCUs

- 1) Distribute financial aid and scholarship information with high schools.
- 2) Share academic and other support resources available at HBCUs with the local community.
- 3) Support K-12 schools with anti-bias training for teachers and staff.



Helpful HBCU and College Readiness Resources for Schools, Districts and Families

[The HBCU Resource Guide](#)

[Getting into College: A Readiness Guide](#)

[UNCF College Toolkit](#)

[UNCF's Scholarships, Fellowships and Internships](#)

[UNCF K-12 LinkTree](#)

[UNCF Community Webinars](#)

[UNCF Parents](#)

[UNCF K-12 Advocacy Community E-mail List](#)

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Breaking Barriers utilizes data from a 2022 survey of 146 students, teachers, and school counselors across seven high schools located in three regions: West, Midwest, and Northeast. To learn more visit: uncef.org/k12advocacy