

NAACP NEW HANOVER COUNTY BRANCH PRESENTS

JOURNEY TO BLACK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

State of Education for Black Students in New Hanover County Schools



Meeting Summary: Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students

This meeting, hosted by the New Hanover County NAACP Education Committee, focused on advancing **Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students**, reviewing local performance data, highlighting successful schools, and mobilizing community stakeholders to support academic equality.

Presentation: Click [Here](#)

Welcome, Mission, and Context

Speakers began by welcoming attendees and emphasizing the **NAACP mission**—achieving equity, eliminating discrimination, and promoting educational and economic security. A moment of silence honored two local education pioneers who recently passed. President Montgomery underscored the purpose of the program “*Journey to Black Academic Excellence*” and reaffirmed commitment to educational equality.

Purpose of the Session

- Use **quantitative and qualitative data** to support informed decision-making
- Study and highlight **best academic practice model schools**
- Advocate for implementing best practices across the district
- Remove institutional barriers
- Support equitable experiences for Black students

Educational Law & Historical Context

The presentation reviewed key legal precedents that define the right to a sound and equal education:

- **14th Amendment (1868)** – Equal protection
- **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)** – Separate schools ruled unequal
- **Civil Rights Act Title VI (1964)** – Prohibits discrimination in federally funded programs
- **ESEA (1965) and ESSA (2015)** – Federal education policy
- **IDEA (1975)** – Inclusion of students with disabilities
- **Leandro v. NC (1997)** – Right to a “sound basic education” in NC

Historical voting rights limitations were also discussed to illustrate long-standing systemic inequities.

Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students Campaign and Task Force

Presenter Elder Jimma McWilson, **Kemetic Africologist and Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students Task Force and Campaign, and F.A.M.I.L.Y. Empowerment Student Achievement Institute** shared major developments (email: aaachievementmatters@gmail.com) :

- ☐ The **National NAACP Board** has formally approved a national **Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students Campaign** and a **Comprehensive National Education Plan** (77 pages).
- ☐ Work is underway to scale proven practices and launch a coordinated **50-state educational strategy**.
- ☐ The NAACP is encouraging local branches to collect at least **one documented best practice per branch**, potentially building a national repository of 2,000 best models.
- ☐ A proposal is in progress for each branch to operate a **virtual Black History Center** to protect historical truth and promote cultural competence.
- ☐ Additional Resources:
 - <http://www.parentstudentunion.com/>
 - www.bestacademicpracticemodelsforblackstudents.com
 - [Best Academic Practice Models](#)
 - [Best Academic Practitioners Presentations](#)
 - www.academicolympiansociety.com/
 - <http://www.africaneducationparty.com/>

Data Review: State and County Academic Performance

The Education Committee presented verified, cross-checked state data about proficiency levels for Black students in **New Hanover County Schools**:

Reading (Grades 3–8)

- ☐ New Hanover Black students: **25.7% proficient**
- ☐ Statewide Black students: **38.4%**

English II (High School)

- ☐ New Hanover: **37.5%**
- ☐ Statewide: **43.8%**

Math 3–8

- ☐ New Hanover: **32.1%**
- ☐ Statewide: **39.2%**

Math I

- ☐ New Hanover: **15.7%**
- ☐ **Statewide: 25.3**

Math III

- ☐ New Hanover 51.4%
- ☐ Statewide: **46%**

A key Point: **Only 1 out of 29 eligible schools in the county** met the 50% proficiency standard for Best Academic Practice Models for Black students in reading (K-8); similarly low numbers appeared across subjects.

Recognizing High-Performing Schools

Despite overall disparities, several schools met or exceeded the NAACP's 50% proficiency benchmark for Black students.

High School

- **Wilmington Early College (WECHS)** – Met criteria in English II, Math I, and Math III; offers students a pathway to graduate with an associate degree.

Elementary & Middle Schools (Math, Reading)

- Eaton Elementary – 68.8% Reading, 81.3% Math

Elementary, Middle and High Schools (Math)

- Eugene Ashley High School – 71.7% Math 3
- Bellamy Elementary – 63.6% Math
- Murrayville Elementary – 57.1% Math
- Murray Middle – 50% Math
- Anderson Elementary – 50% Math
- Codington Elementary – 50% Math
- Winter Park Model Elementary – 50% Math

These school teams were congratulated and encouraged to continue their strong practices.

The Role of Families, Community, and Early Preparation

A major theme: **Student success requires collaboration beyond schools.**
Speakers discussed:

- The importance of **family engagement**
- Removing individual barriers for each student
- The “six levels” of child preparation **before they even enter school** (prenatal influences, home culture, early childhood experiences, etc.)
- Building family competency and confidence, not only relying on schools
- Supporting parents through the Family Empowerment Student Achievement Institute

Work Towards

- Taking a Deeper Look Into Best Academic Practice Models Schools for Black Students
What are Best Academic Model Schools for Black Students Doing Differently?
 - Leadership Practices
 - Instructional Practices
 - Student Supports
 - Family Engagement
- Submitting Public Records Requests for Schools Who Received an A, B, or C on School Report Card for Black Students
- Evaluate State and District Academic Goals to Identify Strengths and Areas of Need
- Building A Coalition of Committed Partners
- Defining Accountability Roles for All Stakeholders
- Creating Community/home programs to boost academic support for Black students
- Build a coalition of committed partners

Community Reflections & Questions

Attendees raised thoughtful questions about:

- How best to support families?
- How to replicate successful school practices?

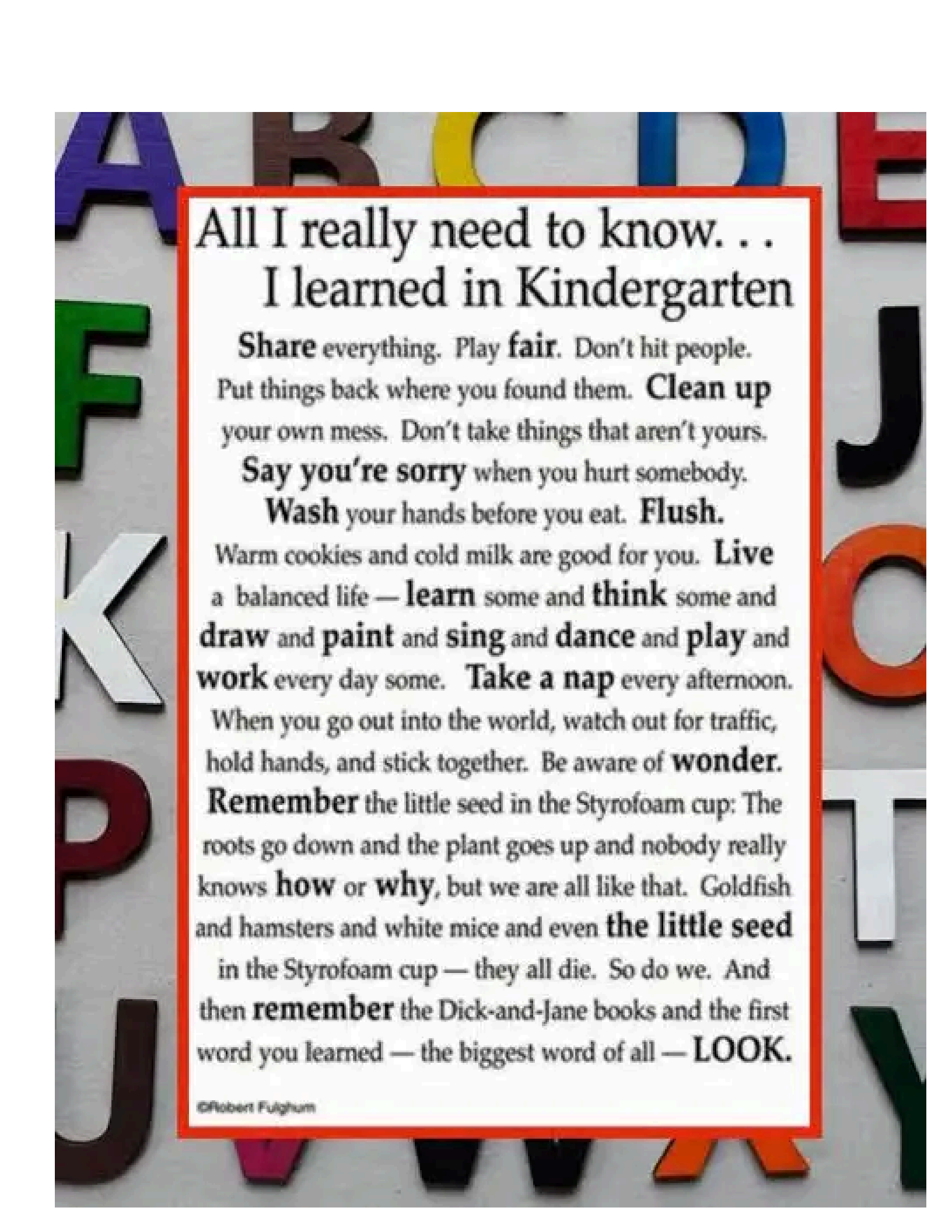
Closing

The meeting concluded with appreciation for participants’ time and commitment. Attendees were encouraged to share resources, continue learning, and stay engaged as part of a long-term movement for educational equity.

Resources:

- [NCDPI Testing Dashboard](#)

- ☐ **2024–25 Disaggregated Performance Data**
- ☐ **2024–25 School Assessment and Other Indicator Data**
- ☐ **Best Academic Practice Models for Black Students**
- ☐ **NC Public Schools Discipline & Dropout Data**
- ☐ **2024-2025 Performance and Growth of North Carolina Public Schools Annual Testing Report**

The background of the image is a wall covered with large, colorful, three-dimensional letters of the alphabet. The letters are in various colors including purple, brown, yellow, blue, red, green, black, white, orange, and dark green. They are arranged in a somewhat haphazard manner, with some letters partially visible and others more prominent. The letters are mounted on a light-colored wall.

All I really need to know. . . I learned in Kindergarten

Share everything. Play **fair**. Don't hit people.
Put things back where you found them. **Clean up**
your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat. **Flush**.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. **Live**
a balanced life — **learn** some and **think** some and
draw and **paint** and **sing** and **dance** and **play** and
work every day some. **Take a nap** every afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic,
hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of **wonder**.

Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The
roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really
knows **how** or **why**, but we are all like that. Goldfish
and hamsters and white mice and even **the little seed**

in the Styrofoam cup — they all die. So do we. And
then **remember** the Dick-and-Jane books and the first
word you learned — the biggest word of all — **LOOK**.