

The Secret of Why African American Boys Don't Perform at Their Best (And What You Can Do About It)

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It is no secret that African American boys are severely underperforming their White counterparts academically. The research shows it. This "achievement gap" is one of the most pressing education-policy challenges that states currently face.

In addition, Black boys are punished disproportionately. More than twice as many black boys are kicked out of class, suspended, and expelled than the other students. This limits their access to the academic material even more.



The secret is why this is happening. The answer might surprise you.

The American educational system tends to be audio-visual. Typically, teachers talk (auditory) and they use some type of visual strategy like writing on the board. School using audio-visual presupposes that ALL students will process it in those two. This is not the case. Some students process information differently.

Unfortunately, this causes two problems:

1. These students have problems grasping and understanding what the teacher says about the subject.
2. This makes students restless which causes them to do things that get them in trouble.

How does this happen?

The student needs to understand what the teacher is saying but can't because the teacher is talking and doing things in a system the student doesn't *normally* process in. Therefore the student gets confused and bored.

Confusion and boredom are feelings they don't like, therefore they distract *themselves* from it by moving and talking.

Teachers misinterpret that behavior as being bad and punish students because they think they are bad. They say things like, "You are distracting the class." However, the students don't think they are doing that. They think that they are distracting themselves from the bad feeling they get when they don't understand.

Now, here's the really interesting part.

Did you know that most Blacks and Latinos are kinesthetic-auditory? It's true and most Whites and Asians are visual-auditory. Since schools are a country club for the visual-auditory, these learners have a head start leaving the kinesthetic learners at an extreme disadvantage.

In addition, often their learning strategy is not good. It's true and so many Black students don't have good learning strategies. For example, they might have a bad spelling strategy. Good spellers are visual spellers. Poor spellers spell phonetically.

So, what do you do?

Doesn't it make sense to teach these kids in their dominant system? Yes. However, it's not enough to just teach a kinesthetic-auditory student in his dominant system. It's important to teach him how to use more of his visual-auditory systems for learning.

Why is that important?

Standardized testing doesn't test kids by using blocks, models, or any other "hands-on" strategy. Standardized testing is a visual activity. You read something and write the answers.

Unless you're blind, you read with your eyes. And that makes reading a visual activity. So you can easily see how people with a dominant, more developed visual system typically test better than those with a less developed visual system.

Since most Black boys are kinesthetic, most likely, they are not very skilled at using visual-auditory strategies for learning. Therefore, they have a hard time comprehending what they read, spelling well, understanding math, and they test poorly.

This causes even more cognitive and emotional issues that interfere with their performance. They develop limiting beliefs like:

- Learning is hard.
- I'm dumb.
- I can't...
- Something must be wrong with me.

These limiting beliefs create limiting emotions. Fear of failure, frustration, and even anger, which create more limiting beliefs. And the vicious cycle continues.



Since behavior is driven by your beliefs and emotions, can you see why many Black boys devalue education, put more emphasis on sports, dating prowess, and looking successful rather than being successful?

Why is it so hard to control these issues?

The reason is that they are at the subconscious level. Therefore, the solution needs to be at the subconscious level.

What can you do?

ACTION ITEMS

1. Provide instruction in their primary representational system.
2. Teach them how to use more of their visual and auditory systems for learning.
3. Change their belief system to one that supports autonomy and self-reliance.
4. Investigate to discover what their learning strategy is. If it is not a good one, get rid of it. Then, install a new more effective learning strategy.
5. Investigate to find out what emotions are blocking them from performing at their best. Get rid of the emotions because all emotions have beliefs tied on to them. And positive beliefs drive positive best performing behavior.

The brain works well and is designed to learn. Therefore, it will learn. Unfortunately, what most Black boys' brains learn in traditional schools may not be the desired outcome. It learns to dread learning, hate school, and get in trouble.

Fortunately, I can help you pinpoint and eliminate the cognitive and emotional blocks to Black boys performing at their best.

So they can finally experience the success, joy, and happiness that is available to them.

Now, who *doesn't* want that?



Why is it important to call me?

- I can help teachers successfully teach Black boys with ease.
- I can teach teachers how to remove emotional blocks that prevent Black boys from learning easily and from being less restless.
- I can teach teachers brain-based, classroom proven strategies to motivate, inspire, and change the belief systems of Black boys to one that supports autonomy, self-confidence, and self-reliance.

Since I have a very busy schedule, I recommend you Contact Me Today at 714.309.4824 or at selina@superachievement.net and feel good.