



## Pursuing Equity for Black Students in K-12 Education: Exploring the Intersection of Race and Disability

THOUGHT LEADER CONVERSATION (TLC) SERIES



### NCSI Announces a New Thought Leader Conversation (TLC) Series

The National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) supports states to transform their systems to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. NCSI is committed to helping state education agencies (SEAs) and their stakeholders understand the intersection of race and disability in education, in order to resolve inequities that disadvantage Black students with disabilities or who may be identified as needing special education services.

Please read NCSI's full statement on pursuing equity here: <https://ncsi.wested.org/news-events/ncsi-commitment-to-combat-systemic-racism-for-students-with-disabilities/>.

NCSI is pleased to announce the launch of a new Thought Leader Conversation (TLC) Series: "Pursuing Equity for Black Students in K-12 Education: Exploring the Intersection of Race and Disability - Thought Leader Conversation (TLC) Series."



#### What is this TLC Series?

- This is a free virtual series of engaging conversations with experts, focusing on questions related to the intersection of race and disability in special education and in education more broadly, to explore ways that systems can actively improve conditions and outcomes for Black students.
- The series is aimed at SEA staff (within special education and beyond). NCSI also welcomes all interested stakeholders, including other state agency staff, representatives of parent and family organizations, LEA staff, state-level or national technical assistance or professional development providers, representatives from institutions of higher education, and other education stakeholders.
- Conversations are organized around NCSI's four priority systems foundations: data literacy, stakeholder and family engagement, research-informed practice, and systems coherence.

#### When will this TLC Series take place?

- **Foundational Session**  
November 10, 2020, 3:30–5:00pm ET
- **Data Literacy**  
December 15, 2020, 3:30–5:00pm ET
- **Stakeholder and Family Engagement**  
February 16, 2021, 3:30–5:00pm ET
- **Research-Informed Practice**  
May 18, 2021, 3:30–5:00pm ET
- **Systems Coherence**  
July 13, 2021, 3:30–5:00pm ET

## What is the purpose of this TLC Series?

This TLC Series aims to:

- Understand the reasons for long-standing inequitable outcomes for Black students with disabilities or who may be identified as needing special education services.
- Increase awareness, within and among state and local education agencies (LEAs), about the importance of the intersection of race/ethnicity and disability when working to improve learning conditions and outcomes for Black students with disabilities or who may be identified as needing special education services.
- Identify and address the systemic beliefs, policies, procedures, and practices that contribute to racial inequities for Black students who are or may be identified as having disabilities.
- Develop recommendations, strategies, and/or resources that will help SEAs and LEAs adopt systemic beliefs and implement policies, procedures, and practices intentionally designed to support improved learning conditions and outcomes for Black students who are or may be identified as having disabilities.
- Identify ways for state and local leaders to engage and partner with students, families, and communities impacted by racial inequities to identify problems and to create and implement systemic solutions to ensure equitable learning conditions and outcomes for Black students with disabilities or who may be identified as needing special education services.
- Leverage opportunities to increase capacity for technical assistance infrastructures to meaningfully support state and local educators to pursue and achieve systemic change that results in equitable learning conditions and outcomes for Black students who are or may be identified as having disabilities.

## Who are the Thought Leaders who will be a part of this TLC Series?

**Amanda Byrd**, *North Carolina Department of Public Instruction*

**Heather Calomese**, *California Department of Education*

**Natasha Capers**, *NYC Coalition for Educational Justice*

**Dr. Edward Fergus**, *College of Education, Temple University*

**Alexandria Harvey**, *Special Education Policy and Practice, WestEd*

**Debra Jennings**, *Center for Parent Information and Resources*

**Dr. Kathleen King Thorius**, *Special Education and Urban Education Studies; Great Lakes Equity Center*

**David Lopez**, *Talent Development and Diversity, WestEd*

**Dr. Erica McCray**, *CEEDAR Center*

**Dr. Kent McIntosh**, *Positive Behavioral & Interventions Support Center, University of Oregon*

**Dr. Fatima Morrell**, *Buffalo Public Schools*

**Dr. Tom Munk**, *IDEA Data Center*

**Esley Newton**, *Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Department of Education*

**Heath Peine**, *Wichita Public Schools*

**Christine Pilgrim**, *Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education*

**Dr. Seena Skelton**, *Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center*

**Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon**, *Georgia Department of Education*

**Dr. Saroja Warner**, *Talent Development and Diversity, WestEd*

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**Stay tuned for additional details!  
We will post updates and registration  
information to the NCSI website:**

<https://ncsi.wested.org/>

**You may also contact us  
via email with any questions:**

[ncsi@wested.org](mailto:ncsi@wested.org)