



What is the African American Student Achievement Initiative (AASAI)?

(AW-SAW-EE)

AASAI is a Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) initiative entering its tenth year of existence. AASAI focuses on bringing about equitable, systemic, and transformative change in teaching and learning in order to more effectively address the academic, social, and emotional needs of its African American students and the families and communities that nurture and support them.

AASAI's four priority areas are as follows:

1. **Closing the Achievement Gap** – Study, evaluate, and make recommendations on the effectiveness of approved intervention and acceleration strategies in order to address the pervasive, persistent underperformance of AA students in HUSD;
2. **Cultural and Linguistic Responsive Pedagogy** - Ensure that school personnel are appropriately trained, supported, and held accountable for the successful implementation of cultural and linguistically responsive professional development and pedagogical practices;
3. **School Climate** - Study and evaluate the effectiveness of district-wide behavioral policies and practices and their impact on African American students;
4. **Family Engagement** - Promote and strengthen AA family engagement through community partnerships and deep alliances with local school sites;

Organizational Structure

AASAI District Parent Leadership Team (DPLT) - consists of no less than two parent liaisons from each K-12 school site. AASAI, DPLT meets on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM at the Parent Hub. Light refreshments for AASAI liaisons; and pizza and licensed child care are provided at each meeting.

Local Site AASAI - Each school site is required to have at least two AASAI meetings at the local school site, throughout the academic school year. For dates/times for local site AASAI meetings please contact the site administrator.

Impact - The AASAI DPLT was instrumental in getting AASAI recognized, in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), as an ongoing HUSD initiative, which specifically and unapologetically addresses the needs of AA students in the district. It annually makes recommendations to the Superintendent and the Board on the needs of AA students and the families and communities that nurture and support them, that are aligned to the Eight Core Areas of the LCAP:

- 1) Student Achievement;
- 2) Student Engagement;
- 3) State Standards;
- 4) Course Access;
- 5) School Climate;
- 6) Parental Involvement;
- 7) Basic Services;
- 8) Other Student Outcomes.

The Board of Education passed a resolution in Support of African American Students in November 2017, 4-0. AASAI is recognized as an essential collaborator in addressing, interrupting, and eventually dismantling systems, policies, and practices that promote ongoing systemic inequities within HUSD. Contact Diana Levy; AASAI Administrator at dlevy@husd.k12.ca.us for more information.