

# Keynote Guide

Dr. Bettina Love

## **We Gon' Be Alright, But That Ain't Alright: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom**

Dr. Love's talk will discuss the struggles and the possibilities of committing ourselves to an abolitionist goal of educational freedom, as opposed to reform, and moving beyond what she calls the educational survival complex.

Abolitionist Teaching is built on the creativity, imagination, boldness, ingenuity, and rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists to demand and fight for an educational system where all students are thriving, not simply surviving.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will learn the concept and importance of culturally responsive and sustaining teaching and learning practices in the classroom.
2. Participants will examine the impact of America's racism on Black children and Black families.
3. Participants will engage with the ideas of abolitionist teaching to foster social justice classrooms and schools.

### **Bio:**

Dr. Bettina L. Love is the William F. Russell Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University and author of the New York Times bestseller *Punished for Dreaming: How School Reform Harms Black Children and How We Heal*. In 2022, the Kennedy Center named Dr. Love one of the Next 50 Leaders making the world more inspired, inclusive, and compassionate. A co-founder of the Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN), whose mission is to develop and support teachers and parents fighting injustice within their schools and communities, she has overseen over \$250,000 in grants to abolitionists around the country. She is also a founding member of the Task Force that launched the program *In Her Hands*, one of the largest guaranteed income pilot programs in the U.S., which has distributed more than \$15 million to Black women living in Georgia. Dr. Love is a sought-after public speaker on a range of topics, including abolitionist teaching, anti-racism, Hip Hop education, Black girlhood, queer youth, educational reparations, and art-based education to foster youth civic engagement. She is also the author of the bestseller *We Want To Do More Than Survive*. Dr. Love has also provided commentary for various news outlets including NPR, PBS, *Washington Post*, *The Daily Beast*, *Time*, *Ed Week*, *The Guardian*, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

### **Website:**

<https://bettinalove.com/>

**Reading list:**

Beacon Press

[We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom](#)

ASCD Education Update

[Abolitionist Teaching in Action: Q&A with Bettina L. Love](#)

Education Week

[How To Make Anti-Racism More Than a Performance](#)

Education Week

[There Is Nothing Fragile About Racism](#)

Education Week

[Teachers, We Cannot Go Back to the Way Things Were](#)

Education Week

[Dear White Teachers: You Can't Love Your Black Students If You Don't Know Them](#)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

[UGA professor: We're teaching black kids survival tactics rather than how to thrive](#)

Research Gate

[Interview with Bettina Love: Creating Spaces That Matter](#)

A collection of articles on Abolition

<https://level.medium.com/abolition-for-the-people-397ef29e3ca5>

**Videos:**

Abolitionist Teaching and the Future of Our Schools

<https://youtu.be/uJZ3RPJ2rNc>

**Audio:**

ATN - [Teaching To Thrive](#) Podcast

**Resources:**

ATN - [Guide for Racial Justice & Abolitionist Social Emotional Learning](#)

*We Want To Do More Than Survive* - [Digital Workbook](#)

Created by Dr. Heidi Oliver-O'Gilvie for Leadership Development at AACPS

*We Want To Do More Than Survive* - [Reflection Guide](#)

Created by shea martin @sheathescholar