

We Need Supportive Spaces That Celebrate Us: Black Girls Speak Out About Public Schools

A new report from Education Law Center - PA

Why We Focus On Black Girls

Inequities caused by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and economic injustice pervade every aspect of Black girls' education, depriving them of the educational spaces they deserve and are entitled to under law. Public schools should be supportive, affirming, well-resourced places where Black girls are championed in their academic and personal growth. Black girls are true experts on real-time conditions in our schools; we must center their needs to address interlocking educational barriers. We have the power to implement the transformative solutions Black girls in our community have outlined for us.

Supportive Spaces Recommendations

- 1 Schools need to hire, retain, and support more Black teachers, administrators, and staff
- 2 Black girls need access to supportive and affirming adults at school
- 3 Schools must implement culturally responsive and affirming curriculum
- 4 Dress and grooming codes, if used, must be fair and inclusive and must affirm students' cultural and gender expression
- 5 Schools must provide culturally affirming mental health supports and increase the number of school-based mental health providers who have shared lived experiences and identities with Black girls
- 6 Police should be removed from schools
- 7 Schools need sufficient resources to fully educate Black girls and support their academic success
- 8 Schools must adequately respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic



"My counselor was a Black woman and I had 'Black girl' issues that I could talk to her about."



"I am glad I got to open up about certain situations that happened to me at school."

Call to Action: Join Us

Join ELC and our partners to center and advance the educational rights of Black girls.

- Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag **#SupportiveSpaces4BlackGirls**
- Get involved in initiatives that center the lived experiences and expertise of Black girls
- Call on decision-makers to make necessary changes so that schools are fully supportive of Black girls
- Stay tuned for future opportunities to learn more, engage, and advocate

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To learn about our Black Girls Education Justice Initiative, visit:
<https://www.elc-pa.org/supportivespaces>

**All student quotes were used with consent.*



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