Educational Experiences and Outcomes of Black Youth in Quebec English-Language High Schools

The English-speaking Black community in Quebec experiences dual marginalization as both a racial and linguistic minority. This can result in specific educational practices that adversely affect Black youth in Quebec schools.

Black students disproportionately experience

Overdisciplining

Receive more negative actions while at school

Black students report more incidents of excessive punishment and public humiliation such as classroom removals, school suspensions, and expulsions.

Academic Streaming*

10% more likely to receive special education designations

This practice disproportionately impacts Black students' graduation rates and their chances of pursuing post-secondary education. They often have limited access to enriched courses and programs.

Lack of Communication

Limited access to important information regarding their special education placement

Many Black students do not feel comfortable asking questions due to their unfair treatment in school and experience a lack of clarity surrounding their educational options.

While educators may perceive their practices as inclusive and beneficial to their students, the English-speaking Black community often feels that the educational environment is unsafe and unwelcoming.

Additional consequences

16.6% of the English-speaking Black community in Quebec holds a Bachelor's degree, ranking as the lowest university graduation rate in the province.

13% unemployment rate experienced by the Black community in Quebec compared to 6.6% by non-visible minorities.

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The Black Community Resource Centre & the Provincial Employment Roundtable of Québec. (2022, July). The Education to Employability Study.

*Academic streaming involves separating the student population by ability and aligning their perceived abilities to a prescribed course structure. Definition by Oakes, J. (1985). Keeping track: How schools structure inequality. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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