



**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**  
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*"Where There Is Unity, There Is Strength"*

August 14, 2018

Dear Dayton Family,

In our continuing efforts to inform, educate and empower the community, the Dayton Unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) urges you to become more engaged in the challenge to ensure that every Dayton Public School student receives a quality education. Because DPS has been declared to be in academic emergency, the Ohio Board of Education has established an Academic Distress Commission to conduct a district review. Without measurable growth in student achievement during the upcoming two years, this could lead to a state take-over of our school system. As fellow stakeholders, we must join with Superintendent Elizabeth Lolli and our DPS Board of Education in creating and sustaining a culture of collaboration to help develop systems and relationships to support student achievement, meet state expectations and graduate students equipped with the knowledge and skills to become productive citizens.

To promote achievement, our most significant challenge is to improve student attendance. Assure that your children attend school. Teachers cannot teach children if they are not present. But, do not stop there. Visit your child's school. Meet the principal. Meet the teachers. Volunteer your time and talent. Your involvement, as a parent or guardian, is crucial. When parents are actively engaged in schools, not only will your own children demonstrate growth, but the performance of all children will improve. To improve student achievement, we must guarantee that every child from PreK-12 is present and on time every day with a mindset to learn.

It is urgent that we move beyond the slogan, "student achievement for all students" and make this a reality. According to the National Parent and Teacher Association, "The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high yet reasonable expectations for the child's achievement, and becomes involve in the child's education at school." With your support and engagement, partnered with DPS's leadership and instructional initiatives, achievement will become a reality for every child in Dayton Public Schools.

Please visit the Dayton Unit NAACP Website (naacpdayton.org) so you can stay connected with your local NAACP organization. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this most urgent communication, please contact Lauretta Williams at (937) 222-2172, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

Warmest Regards,

Lauretta Williams  
Chair, Education Committee  
Dayton Unit NAACP

Honorable Derrick L. Foward, M.C.E.  
President  
Dayton Unit NAACP