

Black Identity, Arts, and Independence in a Special Education Classroom

What brought you to this work?

Flowers: Education can never be one size fits all. Humans are so unique and as a result our learning needs are varied. Education doesn't happen in a vacuum. Therefore, effective learning must take our collective and personal histories and our present circumstances into account. Without doing so, true learning is impossible. An affirmation of who we are and an acknowledgment of our belonging is essential. How to let this inform the learning environments we create as educators is our task.

Robertson: As someone who researches behavior and classroom management strategies for students with and without disabilities, I'm interested to know more about what types of research educators, particularly educators of color as this area is fraught with racial inequity, would like to see conducted.

Research questions

How does Black identity curriculum and/or creative expression help to foster the that confidence and independence in a special education classroom? How is Covid affecting the support for teachers, students, and families in this setting?

Research plan

We will gather field notes from Delana on her experiences related to our focus questions, and transcribe interviews/conversations with Delana related to focus questions. Publically available data on school/district/state trends in special education teacher turnover will be gathered.

Working together

One wonderful surprise was that Delana accepted a full time teaching position in special education (Rachel's area of research) shortly after we were paired! We have a lot in common and text a lot. While our research focus has developed slowly, it has also developed organically and authentically.



Delana Flowers
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