



## Workshop 5: The PLUG Project: Addressing Disproportionate Suspensions and Expulsions for Black Students

### Presenters:

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### Description:

The PLUG Project prioritizes violence prevention and conflict mediation, with a focus on advocating for families. Workshops equip Black and marginalized students with skills like conflict resolution. Specialized parent workshops guide families in navigating children's rights within the school board and addressing anti-Black racism. The project aims to enhance student success through robust family engagement.

### Session objectives and learning outcomes:

- Gain insights into the challenges faced by Black students within the education system, including anti-Black racism, and explore strategies to address these issues.
- Gain insights into the role of family engagement in the success of the PLUG Project, drawing lessons from case studies that highlight effective collaboration between parents, students, and educators.
- Analyze successful case studies of the PLUG Project, exploring how violence prevention and conflict mediation strategies positively impacted student outcomes, especially for Black and marginalized students.

## **Full description:**

### **Challenge:**

The PLUG Project addressed the challenge of disproportionate disciplinary actions against Black students, aiming to enhance their success by navigating systemic challenges such as suspensions, dropouts, academic disparities, and racism within school systems.

### **Action:**

The initiative developed workshops focusing on conflict resolution, de-escalation, and communication skills for students, with parallel parent workshops providing crucial information on disciplinary processes and rights. The project also provided legal services, including representation and advocacy for students facing disciplinary actions.

### **Impact:**

With an over 85% success rate in reducing suspensions and expulsions, the PLUG Project has demonstrated significant impact through workshops teaching conflict resolution, violence reduction, and empowering parents with knowledge about their rights. In partnership with legal support, the initiative has successfully navigated numerous cases, expunging student records of suspensions, and empowering families to voice their concerns effectively when speaking with school boards and administration.

### **Trajectory:**

With a proven success rate, the PLUG Project is poised to expand its reach and become a pivotal advocate for families navigating disciplinary actions. The trajectory emphasizes the project's commitment to addressing evolving needs and its role as a crucial support system, ensuring that families have a dedicated advocate to navigate and challenge unjust

disciplinary actions against their children and directly addressing anti-Black racism. Expanding the initiative is vital to creating a lasting impact on the educational landscape.