



**National
Urban League**

*The Division of Education
& Youth Development*

*The Washington
Bureau*

The National Urban League's initiatives support local, state and national advocacy, engagement, and reform/innovation efforts by leveraging our greatest asset, the Urban League Affiliate Movement along with the presidents and chief executive officers that lead it.

The Equity & Excellence Project

A SIGNATURE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Our Purpose.

To expand educational access and opportunity via reform and innovation, the National Urban League launched The Equity and Excellence Project (EEP) in 2010. The EEP explicitly supports local, state and national advocacy, engagement, and education reform efforts throughout the Urban League Affiliate Movement and with local, state and national partners.



2025 EMPOWERMENT GOAL

Every American child is ready for college, work and life.

18%

of our nation's
African American
4th graders were reading
at "proficient" levels
in 2015

Half

of our nation's
50.1 million P-12
public school
students are children
of color

31%

of our nation's
20 million higher
education students
are African American
or Latino

Our Intention.

TO BUILD more inclusive advocacy and engagement efforts that will generate additional and deeper support for educational equity, opportunity and excellence.

TO STRENGTHEN the ability of the civil rights community and those we serve to effectively advocate for equity and excellence at scale in order to ensure the equitable and high-quality implementation of critical education reforms and investments.

TO IMPROVE educational outcomes for underserved students.

TO HIGHLIGHT the investments, policies, practices, reforms and innovations which explicitly confront historic inequality, as well as to open new paths to success for urban children, underserved children and youth.

TO INNOVATE via increased strategic investments, reform, enhanced content, policy change and improved educational practice.

TO UPEND inequity and instead provide additional access to and investment in expanded opportunity and better student outcomes.

Making The Case For Change.

In the United States, public education is viewed as the best and most impactful way to create equal opportunities for families, children and youth to advance and succeed. However, as long as policymakers continue to exacerbate inequities by investing less in those with the greatest need and fewest assets, then for many urban students and communities, access to high-quality public education remains an unrealized and distant dream.

All too often, communities of color, as well as their institutions and their stakeholders are "left outside" of education reform efforts and innovations, just as students of color are "left behind" in their education. Regrettably, reform is something that happens TO these students, families and communities, instead of something that happens FOR them as a result of their own agency, engagement and leadership.

WE BELIEVE

Students, parents and community stakeholders should opt in to a vision of education reform and innovation that expands and deepens opportunity, upends inequity, accelerates progress, and delivers more fully on the promise of education.



Our Approach. Having a local, statewide and national reach allows us to implement a multi-pronged approach to the Equity and Excellence Project, which includes:

- Engaging Urban League affiliates and partners in local, state and national education reform efforts.
- Ensuring integration across our postsecondary/workforce development and college completion and attainment agendas.
- Broadening and deepening our communication efforts to build a different education reform/innovation narrative in—and concerning—communities of color.
- Building the capacity and executive leadership of the Affiliate Movement, the National Urban League and the National Urban League Washington Bureau to work more effectively and comprehensively with civil rights/equity partners and the national education reform/innovation community.
- Organizing local, state and national convenings centered on equity and excellence.
- Creating opportunities for meaningful student, parent and stakeholder engagement to build a sense of agency and efficacy that can drive local education reform/innovation by building a more robust set of stakeholders and developing effective advocates, including both parents and students, for our areas of emphasis.

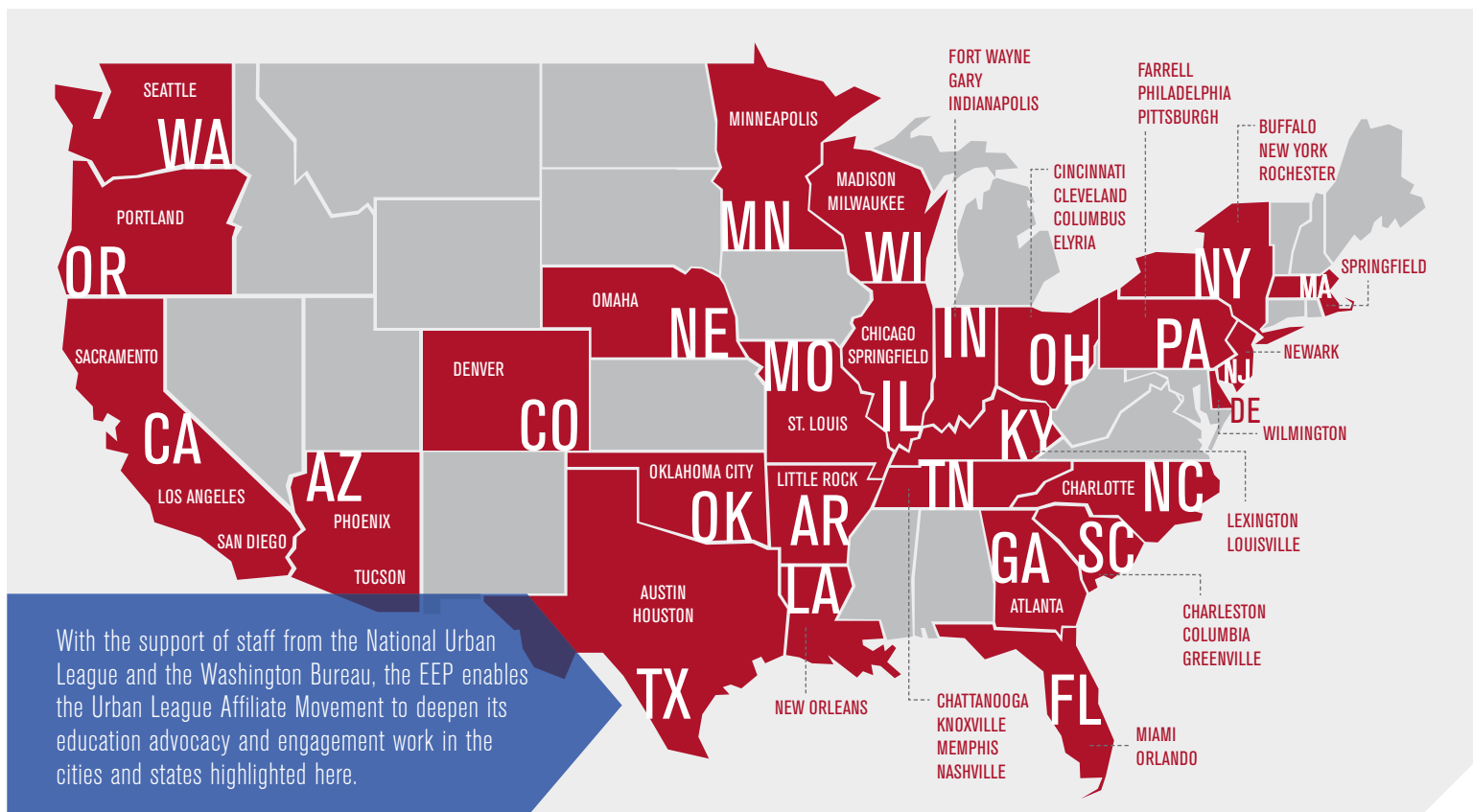
Education reformers and innovators must be able to clearly explain what will be different for students who are presently and have been historically underserved by current policy and practice.



Our Areas of Focus.

The EEP targets seven areas that are highly and tightly related to the historic mission of the National Urban League. Improvements in any one of these seven areas would help some students across the P-16 education spectrum. However, we can help many more students by intentionally and meaningfully combining reform approaches in order to systematically address the complex problems that students, parents and communities continue to face.

- 1. FAIRNESS:** *Equity and excellence at scale*
- 2. INVESTMENT:** *Early childhood learning and education*
- 3. PROMISE:** *Equitable implementation of college and career-ready standards*
- 4. ADVANCEMENT:** *Expanded access to high-quality curricula, teachers and administrators*
- 5. MEASUREMENT:** *Comprehensive, transparent and aligned data systems for early learning through employment*
- 6. OPPORTUNITY:** *Out-of-school time learning with an emphasis on expanded day and summer learning*
- 7. FULFILLMENT:** *College completion and attainment*



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