

Parent & Community Engagement

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spv_logo-hr

Sankofa Parent Village

Sankofa Parent Village (SPV) is a community of care and support for Parents and Caregivers of Black children. LBUSD is committed to centering the unique needs of our community members and engaging in a way that affirms their cultural identities. We recognize that our Village members play an essential role in helping students attain success in school, and as partners, we endeavor to work together to make certain that all Black children achieve excellence on purpose. We strive to provide our Village with the information, tools, and skills that will empower them to elevate academic achievement and center social-emotional wellbeing in their home, school, and community.

Resources

- [LBUSD Core Values \(/fs/pages/28512\)](/fs/pages/28512)
- [LBUSD Equity Policy \(https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/lbusd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C9GVMX817B3F\)](https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/lbusd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=C9GVMX817B3F)
- [LBUSD Non-Discrimination Policy \(/fs/pages/2321\)](/fs/pages/2321)



- [LBUSD Strategic Vision 2035 \(/fs/pages/28510\)](#)

Increasing the Number of Sankofa Parent Villages

We are committed to increasing the number of **Sankofa Parent Villages** across our school sites as a way to strengthen family engagement, build community, and affirm the cultural identity of our students. These Villages provide safe and supportive spaces where parents and caregivers can come together to share experiences, exchange resources, and collaborate with schools to advocate for the success of Black students. By expanding this model, we aim to ensure that more families have access to culturally affirming networks of support that uplift student achievement, foster belonging, and deepen the vital partnership between home, school, and community.



Elevating Intergenerational Wisdom

Elevating intergenerational wisdom involves the exchange of knowledge and experiences between different generations. Elders mentor younger individuals by passing down valuable insights and fostering respect. Younger generations, in turn, strive to gain this knowledge. This dynamic element embraces the African proverb "Sankofa" which says, "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." It emphasizes the importance of elevating the knowledge and experiences of older generations and ancestors as essential lessons for future generations.

The CBSE's goal is to connect passionate role models and mentors with mentees to convey intergenerational wisdom, stories of survival and perseverance, and guidance that fosters pride and resilience.

Uplifting the Community

Uplifting the Community supports efforts and projects that strengthen the Black Community through acts of service. It contributes to the collective growth and development of the entire community. This element embraces a collective effort

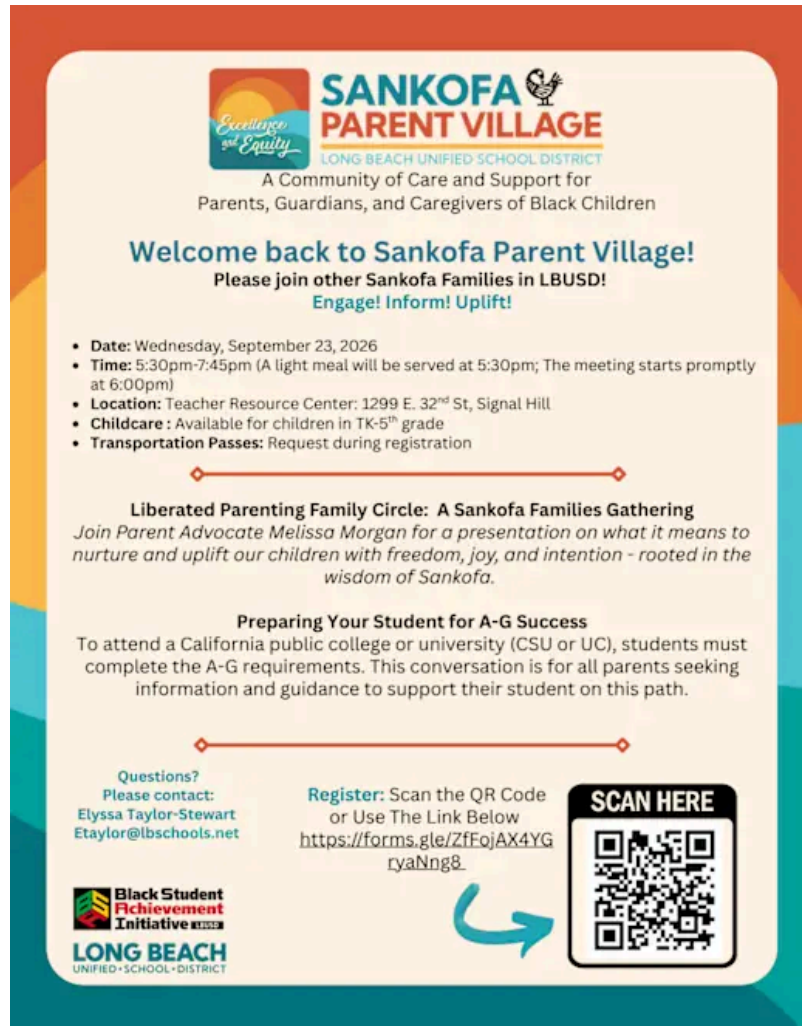
to increase positive visibility and create powerful counternarratives. This commitment not only uplifts the community and those who are actively engaged in it but also acknowledges the deep interconnectedness between individual success within the Black Community, the broader Black Communities, and the overall narrative of Black success.

The CBSE's goal is to create opportunities that promote volunteerism and engagement to encourage unity and address systemic inequities within the community and to ensure that all voices are represented and heard and that Black students' needs are met in educational and community spaces.

Community Garden

We are excited to share our efforts to bring a community garden to life, a vibrant space where students, families, and neighbors can gather, learn, and grow together. This garden will serve as more than just a place to plant fruits and vegetables; it will be a living classroom for teaching sustainability, healthy eating, and cultural traditions rooted in the land. It will also be a space of reflection, connection, and joy, where the community can come together to nurture both the soil and one another. Our vision is for the garden to flourish as a source of pride and wellness for all to enjoy.

Resource



Excellence and Equity

SANKOFA PARENT VILLAGE
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Community of Care and Support for
Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Black Children

Welcome back to Sankofa Parent Village!
Please join other Sankofa Families in LBUSD!
Engage! Inform! Uplift!

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2026
- **Time:** 5:30pm-7:45pm (A light meal will be served at 5:30pm; The meeting starts promptly at 6:00pm)
- **Location:** Teacher Resource Center: 1299 E. 32nd St, Signal Hill
- **Childcare:** Available for children in TK-5th grade
- **Transportation Passes:** Request during registration

Liberated Parenting Family Circle: A Sankofa Families Gathering
Join Parent Advocate Melissa Morgan for a presentation on what it means to nurture and uplift our children with freedom, joy, and intention - rooted in the wisdom of Sankofa.

Preparing Your Student for A-G Success
To attend a California public college or university (CSU or UC), students must complete the A-G requirements. This conversation is for all parents seeking information and guidance to support their student on this path.

Questions?
Please contact:
Elyssa Taylor-Stewart
Etaylor@lbschools.net

Register: Scan the QR Code
or Use The Link Below
<https://forms.gle/ZfFojAX4YGrYaNng8>

SCAN HERE

Black Student Achievement
LONG BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1789166578/lbusdk12caus/w4qbty0klzjcrai7kg1>)

Welcome Back to Sankofa Parent Village | 9/23



SANKOFA SATURDAYS
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sankofa Saturdays is an academic enrichment program for Black students in grades K-5. Sankofa Scholars engage in lessons about Black history and culture that promote academic development, social-emotional learning, and community building to strengthen identity, belonging, and literacy. Each Saturday session also includes Art, African drumming, and Chess.
The Fall session ends with our annual Kwanzaa Celebration!

Sankofa Saturdays is not a drop-in program. Children are strongly encouraged to attend all sessions!

Grades: Kindergarten-5th Grade
Dates: 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 12/5, 12/12 (Kwanzaa Celebration)
Time: 8:30am-12:30pm
Location: Center of Black Student Excellence, 1022 E. Market Street, Long Beach
A snack will be served each Saturday

Register: Scan the QR Code or Use The Link Below
<https://forms.gle/ZfFqjAX4YGryaNg8>

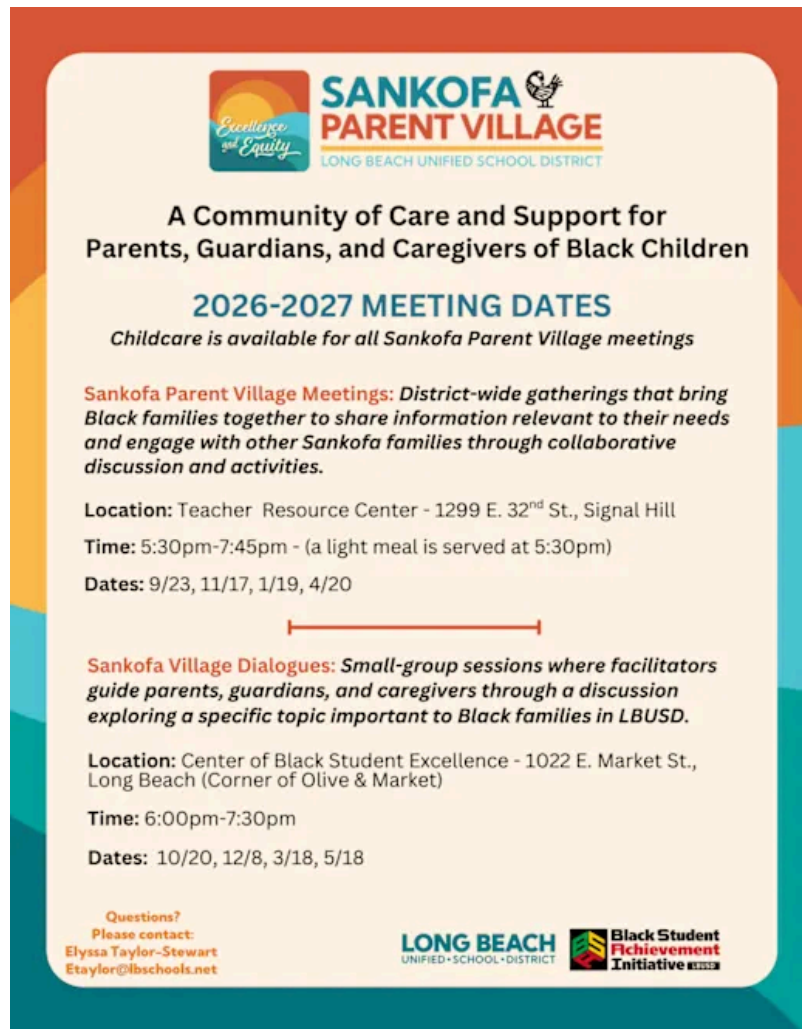
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Etaylor@lbschools.net

Black Student Achievement Initiative
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCAN HERE

(<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1789166532/lbusdk12caus/cjxxa99zzwdvwik6x>)

Sankofa Saturdays 26/27



Excellence and Equity

SANKOFA PARENT VILLAGE
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**A Community of Care and Support for
Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Black Children**

2026-2027 MEETING DATES

Childcare is available for all Sankofa Parent Village meetings

Sankofa Parent Village Meetings: *District-wide gatherings that bring Black families together to share information relevant to their needs and engage with other Sankofa families through collaborative discussion and activities.*

Location: Teacher Resource Center - 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill
Time: 5:30pm-7:45pm - (a light meal is served at 5:30pm)
Dates: 9/23, 11/17, 1/19, 4/20

Sankofa Village Dialogues: *Small-group sessions where facilitators guide parents, guardians, and caregivers through a discussion exploring a specific topic important to Black families in LBUSD.*

Location: Center of Black Student Excellence - 1022 E. Market St., Long Beach (Corner of Olive & Market)
Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm
Dates: 10/20, 12/8, 3/18, 5/18

Questions?
Please contact:
Elyssa Taylor-Stewart
Etaylor@lbuschools.net

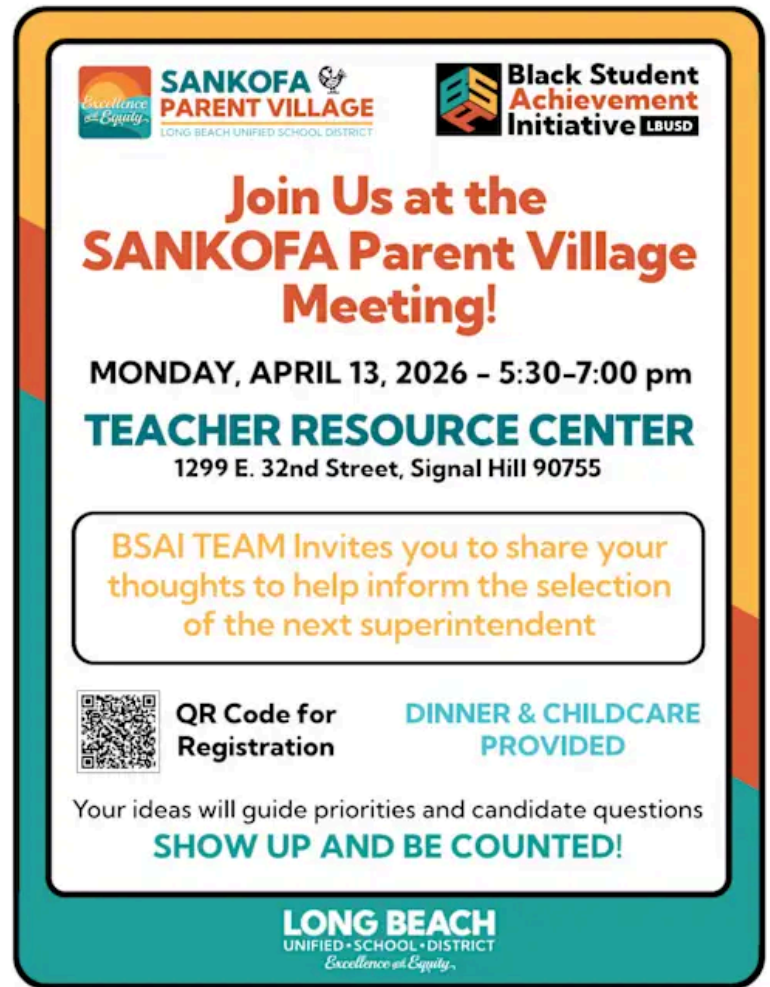
LONG BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Black Student Achievement Initiative

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Sankofa Parent Village Meeting Calendar 26/27

Parent Workshop | Your Voice. Your Vote. Our Schools.




SANKOFA PARENT VILLAGE
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT


Black Student Achievement Initiative
LBUSD

Join Us at the SANKOFA Parent Village Meeting!

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 - 5:30-7:00 pm

TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER
 1299 E. 32nd Street, Signal Hill 90755

BSAI TEAM Invites you to share your thoughts to help inform the selection of the next superintendent


QR Code for Registration

DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Your ideas will guide priorities and candidate questions
SHOW UP AND BE COUNTED!

LONG BEACH
 UNIFIED • SCHOOL • DISTRICT
Excellence at Equity

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Sankofa Parent Village Meeting 4.13.26



ES CENTER OF BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE | **LONG BEACH** UNIFIED • SCHOOL • DISTRICT
Excellence and Equity

SAVE THE DATE!

BLACK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVE
5TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AND WELCOME BACK 2 SCHOOL CELEBRATION



DATE: AUGUST 22, 2026
TIME: 9AM – 3PM
SHUTTLE SERVICE: FROM JORDAN HIGH SCHOOL 8AM – 5PM
LOCATION: CENTER OF BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE
1022 E. MARKET ST,
LONG BEACH, CA 90805
(ENTRANCE ON MARKET AND MYRTLE)

ROOTED IN SANKOFA, UNLOCKING THE FUTURE—
CONNECTING FAMILIES TO RESOURCES, RELATIONSHIPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

LIGHT LUNCH INCLUDED! **PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION**

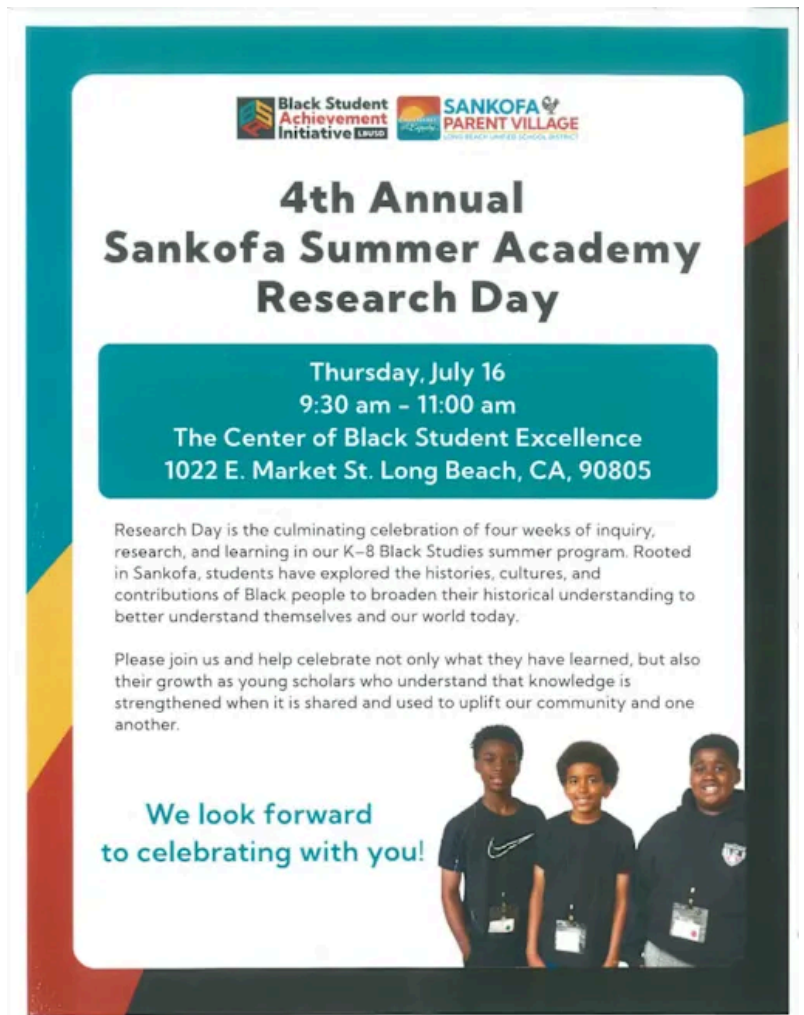
COME FOR:

- INFORMATION BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- CENTERING OUR COMMUNITY
- GUEST SPEAKER: SUPERINTENDENT DAVID ZAID
- PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- BACK 2 SCHOOL GIVE A WAYS
- AND MUCH MORE!

INVESTING IN TODAY. INSPIRING TOMORROW, AND EMPOWERING FOREVER. ♥

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Save The Date! 5th Annual Symposium and Back 2 School Celebration



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4th Annual Sankofa Summer Academy Research Day

bsai_logo-hr



SANKOFA PARENT VILLAGE
A Community of Care and Support for
Parents and Caregivers of Black Children

2025-2026 Calendar

LOCATION: Teacher Resource Center - 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill
TIME: 5:30pm-7:45pm

Monday, September 8
Monday, October 13
~~Monday, November 10~~ Rescheduled: 11/20
Monday, December 8
Monday January 12
Saturday, February 7th - Black History Celebration
Monday March 16
Monday, April 13
Monday, May 11
Monday June 8

- ✓ Childcare provided
TK-5th Grades
- ✓ Dinner served
(starts @ 5:30pm)
- ✓ Meeting starts @ 6:00pm
- ✓ Transportation passes
available on request

Learn, Collaborate, and Build Community with other
members of Sankofa Parent Village!

Questions:
Elyssa Taylor-Stewart
etaylor@lbschools.net

"If you want to go fast, go alone;
if you want to go far, go together"
African Proverb

Excellence and Equity
Black Student Achievement Initiative LBUSD

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Sankofa Parent Village Calendar 25/26



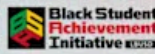
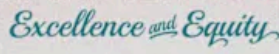
**A Father's Voice:
Black Men's Empowerment Circle**

This monthly gathering is a space for Black men to come together in brotherhood to navigate real-world challenges, share lived experiences, and strengthen their roles as fathers, mentors, and community leaders. The group focuses on supporting one another through the unique responsibilities of fatherhood, with open dialogue around parenting, mental wellness, navigating systems, and helping children thrive in school. Whether you are raising young children or supporting teens through graduation, this is a safe, affirming space to connect, grow, and lead with purpose. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn from one another. Click the [LINK](#) or scan the QR Code to register

**Address: 1022 E. Market Street
Long Beach, CA 90805
(562) 366-2245**

Parking lot on the corner of Market and Olive

Sunday, 9/21 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 10/19 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 11/16 1:00pm-3:00pm
Sunday, 12/21 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 1/18 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 2/15 1:00pm-3:00pm
Sunday, 3/15 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 4/19 1:00pm-3:00pm	Sunday, 5/17 1:00pm-3:00pm


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Voice.pdf)

A Father's Voice



INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR WISDOM WITH OUR YOUTH?

- MENTORSHIP
- STORYTELLING
- INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Center of Black Student Excellence

Your Support Makes All The Difference

Be part of a mission rooted in love, empowerment, and impact. Your time and energy helps create meaningful change and supports the success of Black students and families. Every hour you give brings us closer to a more equitable and thriving future. We can make a difference together.

HOW TO JOIN US

- Visit our website [here](#)
- Choose **VIPS** online application
- Fill out the form
- Be prepared to upload a picture identification and proof of residency
- We will contact you after your application is approved

BENEFITS

- ✓ Make a Real Impact
- ✓ Build Connections
- ✓ Create Meaningful Change

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND LOCATION:

(562) 366-2245

1022 E. Market St.,
Long Beach, CA 90805
(On the corner of Market & Olive)

LONG BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Black Student Achievement Initiative

FIND US ONLINE: [LBSCHOOLS.NET/BSAI](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1757094333/lbusdk12caus/e8rwlufnhonxwgiaa)

(<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1757094333/lbusdk12caus/e8rwlufnhonxwgiaa>)

Elevating Intergenerational Wisdom



SANKOFA PARENT VILLAGE
A Community of Care and Support for Parents and Caregivers of Black Children

2025-2026 Calendar
LOCATION: Teacher Resource Center
1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill, CA 90755
TIME: 6PM-8PM DATE: MARCH 16, 2026

Join us as we learn how the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) directs funding to improve student outcomes. Explore valuable community resources available to support families of children with health challenges. Together, we build knowledge, advocacy, and collective support for our village.

Questions? Call 562-366-2245

-  **Childcare provided**
TK-5th Grades
-  **Dinner served**
(starts at 5:30pm)
-  **Transportation passes**
available on request


Scan or click the **LINK** for more info

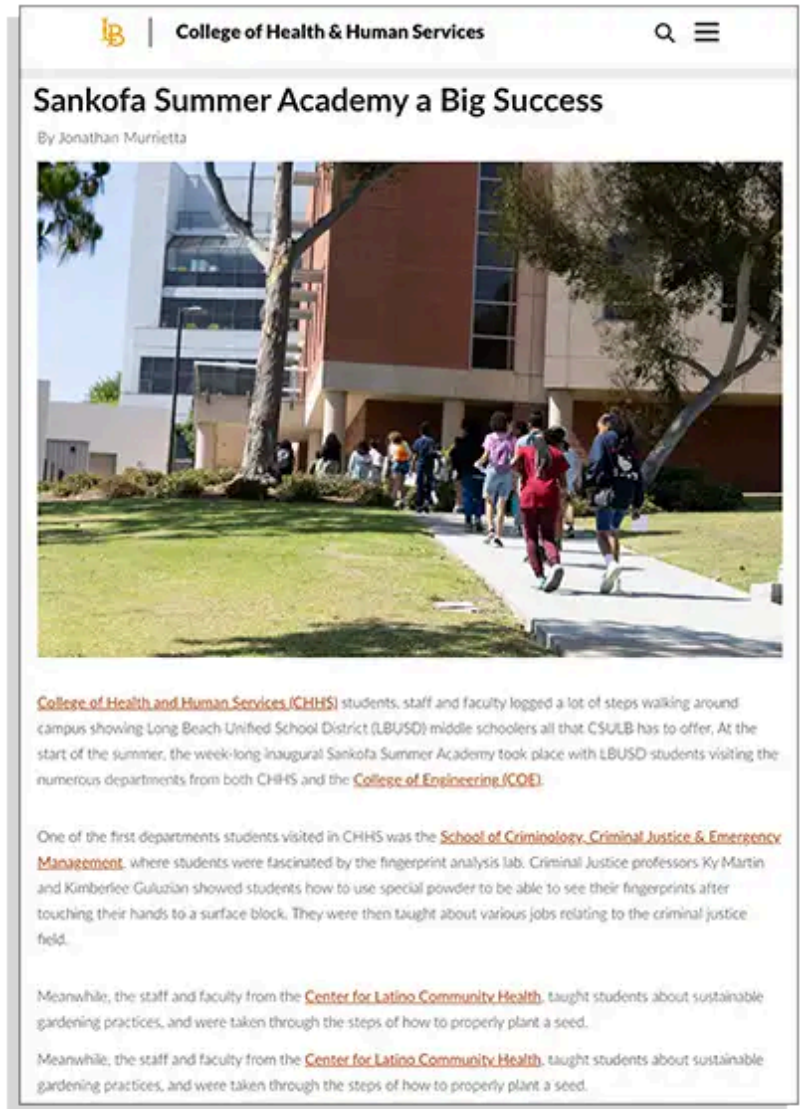
*"If you want to go fast, go alone;
if you want to go far, go together."*
LONG BEACH —African Proverb

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Black Student Achievement Initiative

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Sankofa Parent Village Meeting 3.16.26

Sankofa in the News



<https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-health-human-services/article/sankofa-summer-academy-a-big-success>

CSULB Article - Sankofa Summer Academy a Big Success



Millikan SPV Explore your future event

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Black Student Achievement Initiative LEUSD

DR. TUNETTE POWELL
Speaker

MONDAY
APRIL 13, 2026

5:30PM, REFRESHMENTS
6-7:30PM, PROGRAM

THE CENTER OF BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE
1022 E. MARKET STREET
LONG BEACH
(CORNER OF MARKET & OLIVE)

TO BE WITH BLACK COMMUNITIES: FROM SCHOOL-CENTRIC TO BLACK-CENTRIC WAYS OF BEING

BLM
BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL

TO RSVP, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR USE THIS LINK:
<https://forms.office.com/r/bQdNVYXIKb>

Join us for an evening with Dr. Tunette Powell, an activist mama, equity practitioner and storyteller, who has published on issues of kinship, community, race, racism, equity, and school-induced collective trauma. She is the Director of Parent and Family Partnerships at the Children's Equity Project.

Dr. Powell will talk about her scholarship and how to advocate to disrupt school-induced collective trauma and center struggle, joy, and well-being in Black communities. All are welcome to partake in community and refreshments.

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Dr. Tunette Powell with SPV Community



CSULB-LBUSD

THE SANKOFA A-G PROJECT

Middle School Support for College Access To The Beach

CENTER OF BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Center of Black Student Excellence
Lindbergh Middle School
1022 E Market St, Long Beach, CA
Call the Center for more info: 562-366-2245



Learn how we can:

✓

Support and prepare middle school students for A-G high school readiness

✓

Build trust and connections between families, schools, and the community

✓

Share culturally affirming guidance and set students on a clear path to college

✓

Strengthen our students' social-emotional wellness

All middle school families and community members interested in supporting student success are welcome!

Join us to learn about the Sankofa A-G pilot program and help ensure our students are prepared for high school and beyond.

Click the [LINK](#) or scan the QR code

Demetri Kelley | DKelley@csulb.edu | Gerald Brown | GBrown3@lbschools.net

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SankofaA-GProject

bsai_logo-hr



Skip in Content

English

<https://www.lbschools.net/departments/deputy-superintendent/bsai/cbse/parent-community-engagement>

19/21

Contact Us

Dr. Elyssa Taylor-Stewart

Administrator, Community Engagement

Phone: 562-366-2240

ETaylor@lbschools.net (<mailto:ETaylor@lbschools.net>)

Dr. Elyssa Taylor-Stewart serves as the Student, Family, and Community Engagement Administrator for the Center of Black Student Excellence. In this role, she is dedicated to building meaningful connections between the Center and the community it serves. Dr. Taylor-Stewart is committed to amplifying the voices of Black students and families while working collaboratively to create affirming spaces that honor their experiences, aspirations, and rich cultural heritage, exemplifying Black Excellence and Joy. Her focus is on co-designing liberatory engagement spaces that empower and uplift the community, grounded in the resilience, brilliance, and beauty of Black people. She looks forward to ongoing engagement, identifying counter narratives, and supporting the realization of hopes and dreams as we collectively work toward a brighter future for Black scholars.

Mr. Gerald Brown

Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)

Middle School Program

Phone: 562-366-2253

GBrown3@lbschools.net (<mailto:GBrown3@lbschools.net>)

As a TOSA, Mr. Brown will serve as the coordinator for "A Father's Voice," a male support group that centers the perspectives and leadership of Black fathers and male mentors. This role is vital in advancing the Center's mission to affirm identity, uplift achievement, and build intergenerational community connections.

A Father's Voice: Black Men's Empowerment Circle:

This monthly gathering is a space for Black men to come together in brotherhood to navigate real-world challenges, share lived experiences, and strengthen their roles as fathers, mentors, and community leaders. The group focuses on supporting one another through the unique responsibilities of fatherhood, with open dialogue around parenting, mental wellness, navigating systems, and helping children thrive in school. Whether you are raising young



children or supporting teens through graduation, this is a safe, affirming space to connect, grow, and lead with purpose. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn from one another.



English