**EDUCATION**

A NEW DAY IN AMERICA COALITION

The Education Issue:

Dr. Glenda Glover, President of Tennessee State University says, “Education has to be one of the most important pillars of the Black Community. Some schools in our communities are in a state of disrepair and we must be willing to work with local school systems to correct this situation.” She also adds, “Sadly, racism and discrimination are also facts of life for many black students and their families. As President of a University, I study the experiences of both black high school and college students, and we must build a better narrative that involves understanding what the community is saying and what they think we need to do to shift the paradigm relating to our children”. Dr. Glover also says, “We must also holistically be concerned about the total family and champion programs that not only address the unemployment situation in our community, but also underemployment relating to our community residents being able to qualify for jobs that provide sufficient income to sustain a family”. Lastly, she says, “To remedy this, we must work with our churches, schools and clergy to bring job training programs to our communities”

Many years ago, W. E. B. Du Bois said that the color line divides us still. In recent years, we saw his prediction come true and manifested in the public policy arena. When matched for social class, the gap in educational achievement between African Americans and other groups is substantial. African American children, on average, score lower on tests and are given lower grades than Asian, White, and Latino students. In adolescence, many of them fail courses and drop out of school. Others progress through school but do not excel; they are less often enrolled in honors courses in high school or accepted into competitive four-year colleges. This issue has manifested itself in the way that affirmative action has been attacked. This attack has mainly been visible in education and employment. Mainstream colleges and universities across the country have been consistently thwarted in their efforts to increase enrollment of more people of color.

Our public schools are based on an outmoded system that was not designed to ensure the success of the wide diversity of students that are currently enrolled. We must examine the systems in which our districts, schools and classrooms operate and ask what the systems themselves are doing to close the achievement gap for African American students. We are dedicated to lessening the achievement gap that our children have and still suffer from. Without this important linkage, we cannot win the battle for the soul of our children. These gaps are important to recognize because they affect every aspect of our children’s lives.

Our organization, A New Day In America Coalition is committed to addressing these inequities in our community by taking a holistic approach to education by emphasizing a true commitment of partnership between the community, church, government and citizens.

THE GAPS AND SOLUTIONS:

* A New Day in America Coalition will take active role in demanding an examination of the public schools serving our communities. This includes examining the current system of instruction and if outdated or inadequate, demanding new and redesigned methods and processes for our children. We will identify those schools in our community that have inadequate facilities, faculty/staff, resources and parental involvement.
* We will demand that the quality of teachers assigned to schools in the Black community are qualified, trained, and meeting the needs of our children.
* We are committed to early learning programs that will provide children through the age of 5 with a quality and educationally oriented Early learning.
* We will demand that graduation rates of Black students increase to reach parity with the age groups of graduating seniors in other communities
* We will actively seek out those churches in our community who are open to true faith-based partnership with community schools. Our goal is to achieve this link through common paths of study that links the strong faith orientation in our community with family values.
* We will forge meaningful agreements that link the business community and our educational institutions, pre-school, K-12 schools, HBCUs and other institutions of higher learner. The objective is to create positive outcomes relating to employment & business ownership.