



To improve the life outcomes of young men and boys of color

Building Awareness : Students



THE BOYS ARE TALKING FORUM:

An Open Public Forum

With the best of intentions, we as educators, policymakers, parents, school designers, and community activists design “intervention” programs to support young men and boys of color. However, we often get frustrated with the lack of results or outright failure of some of our initiatives when the outcomes are not what we expected. At the Sims-Fayola Foundation, we believe the problem is in the planning - specifically, planning without including the input of the young men themselves. They rarely get a chance to be part of their own solutions for one reason or another.

Our annual **Boys Are Talking Forum** is designed to give these young men a voice for planners to consider when designing initiatives. It not only gives them a seat at the table but a voice as well. The Forum provides a platform for the young men to share and describe the impact of the initiatives that have helped them reach their goals and achieve success, as well as those structures that have hindered them.



Program Outcomes:

- Increased capacity to self-advocate for academic and social needs.
- Increased participation in school leadership roles and activities.
- Increased capacity to make choices aligned with their dreams and goals.
- Increased community awareness of the issues impacting young men and boys of color.



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