

# Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools

Sunday, June 23, 2019 • 11 am – 4 pm • Location: Baltimore 1-2

**Dr. Tyrone Howard**, Senior Fellow, International Center for Leadership in Education  
**Maisah Howard**, Senior Fellow, International Center for Leadership in Education

## Description

It is human nature to disengage from conversations that make us uncomfortable, such as gaps in equity, issues around race and implicit bias, and the effects of acute, chronic, and complex trauma on students. However, this only contributes to the problem. Educators must be prepared to understand the messy, complex, emotional, cruel, shameful, and often contradictory messages that come with these topics in order to educate the whole child. In this eye-opening pre-conference, Tyrone and Maisah will lead you through an open exchange of real stories and real perspectives. They will share strategies to engage stakeholders in courageous conversations around subgroups, race-related topics, and the effects of trauma. You will be encouraged to speak your truth, while acknowledging your own biases in a safe space.

## Goals for The Session

1. Establish an understanding and the importance of implicit bias in the classroom
2. Understand trauma and how it impacts student relationships and learning
3. Share strategies, resources, and best practices for positive change in your system/school
4. Create equity-oriented next steps for your classroom/school/district

## Agenda

Time	Content	
11:00 – 12:45 am	Why Race and Culture Matters - <i>Dr. Tyrone Howard</i>	
11:45 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch – Prince George's Exhibit Hall</b> <b><i>Air Wall to be Pulled</i></b>	
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm	Trauma Aware Classrooms <i>Maisah Howard</i> <i>Last Name A-K: Baltimore 1-2</i>	Courageous Conversations about Equity <i>Tyrone Howard</i> <i>Last Name L-Z: Chesapeake 2</i>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Break & Participants Change Rooms	
2:30-4:00 pm	Trauma Aware Classrooms <i>Maisah Howard</i> <i>Last Name L-Z: Baltimore 1-2</i>	Courageous Conversations about Equity <i>Tyrone Howard</i> <i>Last Name A-K: Chesapeake 2</i>

## Presenter Bios

► **Maisah Howard, M.Ed., MSW, PPSC** is a former Children's Social Worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. She has worked in child welfare for over 23 years working with children and families to keep children safe, engage extended family to secure lifelong connections for youth, coordinate necessary resources, and help to remediate the need for

child welfare interventions. Maisah is also a former elementary school classroom teacher who taught in the Compton Unified School District. Maisah Howard has provided professional development for teachers and principals nationally focusing on ways teachers and administrators can support the needs of children and families dealing with social emotional trauma.

► **Dr. Tyrone C. Howard** is professor in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies' at UCLA. He is also the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. Professor Howard's research examines culture, race, teaching and learning; he has published several bestselling books, and his most recent book, *Expanding College Access for Urban Youth* documents ways schools and colleges can create higher education opportunities for youth of color. Dr. Howard is also the Director and Founder of the Black Male Institute at UCLA, which is an

interdisciplinary cadre of scholars, practitioners, community members, and policy makers dedicated to improving the educational experiences and life chances of Black males and other males of color. A native of Compton, California, where he also worked for years as a classroom teacher, Dr. Howard was recently named the recipient of the 2015 UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award. In 2016 & 2017, Dr. Howard was listed by Education Week as one of the 60 most influential scholars in the nation informing educational policy, practice and reform.

**FACT: One out of every 4 children attending school has been exposed to a traumatic event that can affect learning and/or behavior.**

**FACT: Trauma can impact school performance.**

- Lower GPA
- Higher rate of school absences
- Increased drop-out
- More suspensions and expulsions
- Decreased reading ability

**FACT: Trauma can impair learning.**

Single exposure to traumatic events may cause jumpiness, intrusive thoughts, interrupted sleep and nightmares, anger and moodiness, and/or social withdrawal—any of which can interfere with concentration and memory.

Chronic exposure to traumatic events, especially during a child’s early years, can:

- Adversely affect attention, memory, and cognition
- Reduce a child’s ability to focus, organize, and process information
- Interfere with effective problem solving and/or planning
- Result in overwhelming feelings of frustration and anxiety

**FACT: Traumatized children may experience physical and emotional distress.**

- Physical symptoms like headaches and stomachaches
- Poor control of emotions
- Inconsistent academic performance
- Unpredictable and/or impulsive behavior
- Over or under-reacting to bells, physical contact, doors slamming, sirens, lighting, sudden movements
- Intense reactions to reminders of their traumatic event:
  - Thinking others are violating their personal space, i.e., “What are you looking at?”
  - Blowing up when being corrected or told what to do by an authority figure
  - Fighting when criticized or teased by others
  - Resisting transition and/or change

**FACT: You can help a child who has been traumatized.**

- Follow your school’s reporting procedures if you suspect abuse
- Work with the child’s caregiver(s) to share and address school problems
- Refer to community resources when a child shows signs of being unable to cope with traumatic stress
- Share Trauma Facts for Educators with other teachers and school personnel

# Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Questionnaire

## Finding your ACE Score

**While you were growing up, during your first 18 years of life:**

1. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often** ...  
Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you?  
**or**  
Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did a parent or other adult in the household **often** ...  
Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you?  
**or**  
**Ever** hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you **ever**...  
Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way?  
**or**  
Try to or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal sex with you?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did you **often** feel that ...  
No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special?  
**or**  
Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you **often** feel that ...  
You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you?  
**or**  
Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if you needed it?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Were your parents **ever** separated or divorced?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was your mother or stepmother:  
**Often** pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her?  
**or**  
**Sometimes or often** kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard?  
**or**  
**Ever** repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did a household member go to prison?  
Yes No If yes enter 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Now add up your "Yes" answers: \_\_\_\_\_ This is your ACE Score**