



PROGRAMS

The mission of the W.E.B. Du Bois Society is to reinforce the positive impact of student motivation and engagement on increasing academic ambition among African-American youth. We endeavor to transform the way African-American youth and community cultures value academic achievement as the best option for achieving life success.

We achieve this mission by cultivating success-oriented mindsets; promoting environments and behaviors that nurture a love of learning; and publicly recognizing and rewarding academic achievement. To achieve this mission, our programs focus on:

1. **Recognizing and rewarding academic achievement.**
2. **Fostering a culture of academic ambition** — one that sees academic excellence as desirable, attainable and associated with personal effort.
3. **Promoting and instilling the skills and behaviors that lead to academic achievement.**

The WEB

The WEB is a program for high potential African-American high school students who attend metro Atlanta schools. These students are accepted to participate in an eight-week program during the school year in which they will:

- **LEARN** practical skills and increase the motivation they need to succeed throughout their high school and college endeavors;
- **INTERACT** with college mentors and accomplished African-American executives, entertainers and public figures to receive firsthand insights and motivation; and
- **ENGAGE** with like-minded peers who reinforce a culture of academic excellence and inspire rigorous pursuit of academic ambition.

The program consists of lectures and interactive activities and experiences to help students learn the value of teamwork, leadership and high scholarship. Through this experience, students learn about important skills, such as studying to support their academic success and how to successfully transition to college.

Selected students possess a 75 cumulative average or better, must secure teacher recommendations and submit a personal essay.

W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Program

Modeled after the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Program is the only recognition program of its kind in the nation that's exclusive for African-American students. All over Georgia, and throughout the U.S., there are many African-American students who work hard to compete and excel in the classroom, against all odds.

Du Bois Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. In addition to recognizing and honoring some of metro Atlanta's most distinguished African-American high school students, the program inspires other African-American students, no matter where they are, to aim higher in the classroom.

Admission into the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars program is by invitation only. Invitations are extended to metro Atlanta African-American high school seniors based on their grade point average (GPA) and their standardized test scores (SAT or ACT test scores). Students must designate to have their ACT and/or SAT score reported to the W.E.B. Du Bois Society in order to receive an invitation. To report their scores submitted for consideration, students must select ACT code 6772 or SAT code 6554.

iRISE Essay Competition

The W.E.B. Du Bois Society has partnered with Kaplan Test Prep to help equip more African-American students with the writing skills they need to excel in their course work and to write competitive essays for standardized tests and college admissions.

The program includes two key components:

1. **FREE Writing Workshop:** In this optional workshop, African-American students engage firsthand with experienced Kaplan instructors — learning the key points and techniques to writing a creative and compelling personal essay, as well as the strategies for using examples and other components to help their essay stand out.
2. **An Essay Competition:** Students use the skills and techniques obtained in the workshop to enter the iRISE Essay Competition, where they have a chance to win cash and other prizes, including an Equifax, Inc. sponsored \$2,000 grand prize for the top high-school winner.

90+Celebration

In several metro Atlanta elementary, middle and high schools, the W.E.B. Du Bois Society works to celebrate and reward academic ambition. The purpose of the program is to motivate the attitudes and behaviors that lead to academic success by recognizing and rewarding students for demonstrating hard work and effort, progress and sustained excellence.

How does it work? Teachers nominate and select students for three categories:

1. **Academic All-stars** - Recognizes students who have at least a 90 percent cumulative grade average. Teachers at participating schools submit this information to their 90+Celebration coordinator.
2. **The A-List** - Recognizes students who have increased proficiency in a math or science-based subject by at least one letter grade. Teachers at participating schools submit this information to their 90+Celebration coordinator.
3. **Academic Spirit** - Recognizes students who have worked hard to improve academically as evidenced by preparedness for class, homework completion, class participation, and seeking resources such as teacher or peer help before or after school or attendance at Saturday school, if available.

Two to three times during the school year, the W.E.B. Du Bois Society engages local media personalities, athletes, public figures and community and business leaders to join with school leaders to celebrate, honor and reward these students for their efforts. Bulletin boards hung throughout the school feature recognized students and feature stories are included on the school's Web site and in school newsletters. With applause, cheers, prizes, and lots of fanfare, 90+Celebration helps to reinforce the connection between individual behaviors — hard work and dedication — and students' academic success.

Team UP

The W.E.B. Du Bois Society believes in the influence and impact of collaborative learning and peer support on improving academic outcomes for all students. And, the facts support us:

- Group study is proven to enhance student social skills.
- Peer study groups bolster student confidence.
- Peer groups help students practice assertiveness.
- Students learn team work and benefit from being a part of an academic team.

Team UP is an initiative to encourage more metro Atlanta students to collaborate to learn together. Through partnerships with the Atlanta-Fulton County Library System and the City of Atlanta Recreation Centers, and through online tips and resources for students, the W.E.B. Du Bois Society is able to provide the practical support and resources students need to Team UP to support their academic success.