



# Black Youth Diverse Learners Research Project: Towards Systemic Change

December 2022 - May 2024

## About the Study

This critical community-based research project is facilitated by Black peer researchers with disabilities (16-30 years old) in Halton-Hamilton region, in collaboration with the ASE Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities, Centre for Diverse Learners, and Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton. This systems mapping project aims to promote the success of Black youth diverse learners.

Using a “for us, by us” approach, this project centers the lived experiences and voices of Black youth diverse learners (age 15-29) and captures the complex experiences of Black youth diverse learners and the intersectionality of Blackness, disability, age, gender, 2SLGBTQ+, and other identities.

**These important insights will be captured through virtual and in-person:**

- a) 1-on-1 interviews
- b) Focus groups
- c) Photographic data collection

## Project Objectives

- Identify structural and systemic barriers within the educational systems and community supports; documenting strategies for success and system navigation.
- Inform system-based solutions and approaches that are Black youth-focused, culturally-relevant, and accessible.

Our team of Black researchers and community animators proudly bring our lived experience with disabilities to lead this innovative project, and will also draw on the subject expertise of Black families and caregivers, Black organizations, educational stakeholders, and the Halton-Hamilton community.

The project advisory committee oversees this project and is composed of Black youth, community partners, educators, a psychologist, and lead partner organizations.

## Share your story and expertise!

Your voice is critical to this important work! Join our project and share your expertise if you live in the Halton-Hamilton community and are a:

### Black Youth (ages 16 - 30)

1. Black youth with disabilities (diagnosed, undiagnosed, and misdiagnosed)
2. Black youth diverse learners (ADHD and learning disabilities)

### Black Community Members

1. Parents, guardians, and caregivers of Black youth with disabilities
2. Educators, counselors, and school board administrators
3. Community organizations and parent associations
4. Student success supports and graduation coaches

### Educational and Community Stakeholders

1. School board specialists in research, education, and curriculum development
2. Teachers and guidance counselors, school board administrators
3. Special education teachers and specialists
4. Disability focused organizations

## Sign up now!

Participate in a focus group, one-on-one interview, or become a community partner!

[Click Here](#)

Honorariums provided for all research participants and community partners.

For more information about the project email [manager@asecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:manager@asecommunityfoundation.com)



# What is a Diverse Learner?

Diverse learners include those diagnosed with:

- ADHD
- dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and dyspraxia
- Level 1 autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- mental health that affects learning
- non-verbal and other disabilities including but not limited to:
  - Oral, Written, and Reading Language Disorders
  - Auditory processing disorders.
  - Language processing disorders
  - Visual perceptual/visual motor deficit

## Project Timeline



## Research Team

- Rashelle Litchmore, BSc, MA, PhD | Principal Investigator
- Aaliyah Hinds, BAH, MEd | Graduate Student Research Analyst
- Nkem Ogbonna, BSc | Project Lead
- Liza Arnason, BA, MA | Project Lead and Advisory Member

This project is supported by an advisory committee of subject experts and those with lived experience, Black youth peer researchers, and a team of volunteers.

Meet the full project team at  
[www.asecommunityfoundation.com/research](http://www.asecommunityfoundation.com/research)

## Launch Event

Tuesday, February 28  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us and celebrate Black History Month with our Halton-Hamilton Community! Our launch will be a chance to connect with other Black people within our community, celebrate our accomplishments, and learn about more about how to get involved in this research project.



Register here: [www.asecommunityfoundation.com/events](http://www.asecommunityfoundation.com/events)

## About ASE Community Foundation For Black Canadians with Disabilities

The ASE Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities is rooted in the "For us, by us" principle, centering our voices, lived experience, and resiliency through resistance to manifest change. Our mission is to disrupt disparities at the intersection of Blackness, disability, and gender; driving a cultural shift that supports the collective liberation of our community. We cultivate access for all through education and awareness, collaborative knowledge sharing, research and policy, and youth empowerment anchored in a national Black Accessibility Knowledge Hub.

For more information about the project email  
[manager@asecommunityfoundation.com](mailto:manager@asecommunityfoundation.com)