ABOUT THRIVE:
Thrive is a national campaign led by the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) to celebrate students (high school and college) and their expertise while solving persistent problems impacting students, schools, and communities. Thrive Summits are community forums where students make recommendations about the best ways that caring and concerned adults can support their learning and development while adults are supported in shifting policy and practice to respond to the recommendations that students make. Thrive Summits build the capacity of student leaders, specifically racial/ethnic and sexual minority students, by exposing them to programs and practices that can improve their lives holistically. Thrive Summits also leverage partnerships with individuals and institutions to ensure that students who are traditionally under-supported have access to the learning and development opportunities needed to overcome poverty and enjoy sustained economic opportunity. To learn more, watch the profile video of David Johns on YouTube (https://youtu.be/f-62A2I-Ezg).

THEORY OF CHANGE:
WHEN CARING ADULTS PARTNER WITH STUDENTS TO DEVELOP PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS ENDURING SCHOOL PROBLEMS EVERYONE WINS!

THRIVE SUMMITS:
Challenge traditional notions of what students “need” and address the complex issues that students and their families face in the pursuit of cognitive, social, and emotional development opportunities. They also invite community leaders and caring and concerned adults to work better together to support students and schools, especially those most often neglected and ignored.

THRIVE SUMMIT OBJECTIVES:
• Center, celebrate, and support traditionally underserved students
• Shift to a model of shared power between educators, students, and their communities.
• Provide professional development to student organizers and educators.
• Highlight promising and proven strategies to support the cognitive, social, and emotional development of students.
WHAT MAKES THE THRIVE APPROACH DIFFERENT?
Thrive Summits acknowledge that, too often, education reform agendas do not account for the opportunities and challenges students identify as most salient to their learning and development.

PARTNERSHIPS:
Thrive Summits are produced in coalition with national and community-based organizations to ensure the recommendations provided by students are addressed. Partnerships are essential to the successful execution of Thrive Summits. Consider the following:

- Prior to the production of Thrive Summits facilitators provide a range of professional support to student participants and the educators charged with supporting their learning and development. During this time community partners meet to discuss assets, gaps, and opportunities to work better together to respond to the recommendations made by student leaders.

- Thrive Summits are only successful when adults listen and respond to the recommendations made by student leaders. To support this goal, NBJC works with communities that have the following, at a minimum:
  - A local K-12 or Institution of Higher Education that will host the Thrive Summit and related planning meetings, which includes identifying campus leadership to serve as a liaison to the National Black Justice Coalition and otherwise support this work; and
  - At least two community-based organizations with a demonstrated history of working to support the learning and development of Black students (with a strong preference for organizations that include an intersectional approach to this work) and at least one community-based organization with a demonstrated history of supporting access to opportunity for Black children and/or families.
**IN THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING THRIVE SUMMITS, COMMUNITIES WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY STUDENT LEADERS.**

**FOLLOWING THRIVE SUMMITS,** community liaisons work with NBJC faculty and Thrive Summit student leaders to report progress toward recommendations made at each Thrive Summit. Thrive Summit communities become members of a community of practice that is supported in sharing best practices, identifying new resources, and working better together to support the learning and development of the students they serve.
WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE:
A FEW EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENTS MADE FOLLOWING THRIVE SUMMITS

• A school district in a suburban New England town **DEDICATED ONE WEEK EACH MONTH** during the academic year to highlight the diverse contributions of Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ people;

• A high school in a major metropolitan city in the northeast **CREATED A STUDENT GROUP FOCUSED ON MENTAL HEALTH AND INCLUSION** and has established an internship program to support students in deepening advocacy, policy and civic engagement interests and skills; and

• One of the largest school districts in the country is working, in partnership with NBJC, to **INSTITUTE A STUDENT-LED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES**; pilot Thrive Summits in specialized, gender isolated, schools; and to produce a district wide Thrive Summit.