



# Williamsburg County School District

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## WCS D Superintendent Hosted “New Male Teacher Chat and Chew”

*“Black teachers make up just 7 percent of public school faculty. Black males make up only 2 percent of the U.S. public school teaching force, and they have a high turnover rate. That’s true even though more than half of U.S. public school students are people of color. The representation of black men matters in classrooms. Black men spend more time mentoring and counseling students than teachers of any other demographic.” U.S. Department of Education*

Did you know that black teachers make up only 7% of public school faculties and only 2% are black male teachers, of the entire U.S. public school teaching force? Why does this matter? It matters because minority students make up more than half of the United States public schools. For all demographics of students, having a representation of culture and ethnicity does matter.

Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, the superintendent of Williamsburg County School District, is on a mission to inspire and retain the males hired within the past two years within the school system. He knows the challenges that districts are facing throughout the country in terms of retention and ensuring that a diverse workforce is in place to meet the needs of students.

Dr. Wymbs hosted his first of many ***New Male Teachers’ Chat and Chew*** sessions on Saturday, Oct. 14th at Brown’s Bar-B-Que in Kingstree. The school district has an all-time high number of minority males in the classrooms of WCS D, and Dr. Wymbs is working with several stakeholders to ensure that research-based initiatives are in place to support all teachers to include this group of males.

Along with Attorney Doward Harvin, the superintendent opened the floor for the men to speak openly and candidly to them about the support they need to thrive and continue in the field of education. The group talked about mentorship, providing for their family needs on an educator’s salary, and ensuring they were meeting the needs of the students they serve daily. They also spoke about serving as mentors for male students on campus, finding their “place” in the overall school and campus environment, and balancing home and work life. State and national research shows that for black males from low-income households, having a black teacher for at least one year in elementary school reduces the high school dropout rate by 39%.