Racial Socialization Practices & the Adolescent African American Student

Jazmyn Becker  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Sumer Seiki, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Research on racial identity socialization of African American adolescents places emphasis on the family’s racial socialization practices and its impact on racial identity development (Caughy, Nettles, & Lima, 2010). There is a lack of investigation in the ways the education institution impacts racial identity development. Yet, some studies found an adolescent’s sense of racial identity to be a moderator between the student in relation to school engagement and bonding, self image, defense against discrimination, academic achievement, and group acceptance (Chabous, Riva, Green, Helair, 2012; Dotterer, McHale, Crouter, 2009). A literary review and analysis of research in various fields including black psychology, was conducted to expand our understanding of the ways the education institution contributes to racial identity development of African American adolescents. My findings suggest that reinforcement of racial identity socialization practices in the classroom is necessary for positive racial identity development of African American adolescents.