

My Brother's Keeper? The Impact of Targeted Educational Supports

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Abstract: The My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Challenge developed by President Obama supports communities that promote civic initiatives designed to improve the educational and economic opportunities specifically for young men of color. In Oakland, California, the MBK educational initiative features the African American Male Achievement (AAMA) program. The AAMA focuses on regularly scheduled classes exclusively for Black, male students and taught by Black, male teachers who focus on social-emotional training, African-American history, culturally relevant pedagogy, and academic supports. In this study, we present quasi-experimental evidence on the dropout effects of the AAMA by leveraging its staggered scale-up across high schools in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). We find that AAMA availability led to a significant reduction in the number of Black males who dropped out as well as smaller reductions among Black females, particularly in 9th grade.



Bio: Thomas S. Dee, Ph.D., is the Barnett Family Professor at Stanford University's [Graduate School of Education](#) (GSE), a Research Associate at the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) (NBER), and a Senior Fellow at the [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research](#) (SIEPR). He also is the Faculty Director of the [John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities](#). His research focuses largely on the use of quantitative methods to inform contemporary issues of policy and practice.