



# How Five African American Students Navigated the Tough Transition from 9<sup>th</sup> Grade to High School

The [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) Assistant Director Joanna Ross presented a doctoral research poster at the American Association for Teaching & Curriculum conference in Louisville, Kentucky, this month, and we wanted to share her valuable insight with our readers. Her research question: **How does the sense of belonging develop among 9<sup>th</sup> grade African American students over a semester?**

students' sense of belonging as they transitioned from middle school to a large, Denver-area high school with a predominantly White student body.

*Ross set out to determine the extent to which race, place, and academia affected students' sense of belonging at school.*

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## Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the spring 2024 semester. Call Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director, UNC Center for Urban Education, at 303-637-4334 or [email](#) for more information. Watch our [short video](#) to learn more about the CUE teacher-preparation program.