



Letter of Partnership

Dear Colleagues:

The National Basketball Association (NBA), The National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and the National Basketball Retired Players Association (NBRPA) and the Council of the Great City Schools (the Council) are pleased to announce their partnership to improve the educational and social outcomes of males of color. This partnership is part of President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper* initiative and is designed by our organizations as a collaborative effort to help put boys and young men of color on a path to lifelong success.

The Council and 61 of its urban public school district members across the country have signed a pledge that was announced by the president to improve the academic attainment of the males of color who attend their big city school systems; enhance access to advanced placement and honors courses; bolster school attendance and reduce absenteeism; lower disproportionate suspensions and expulsions; increase graduation rates; and other actions that will heighten success for urban students who have historically been left behind.

For its part, the NBA, NBPA and NBRPA made a commitment to provide resources to encourage our young men and boys of color to stay in school, apply themselves to their studies, show up to class every day, do their homework, and serve as leaders in their schools and communities. The NBA family already has a number of initiatives that work in service of these goals.

Enclosed is the contact information for NBA teams as well as school system leaders. Over the next several months, we recommend representatives from the NBA teams and school system leaders in their respective cities reach out to each other to determine how we can better coordinate our efforts, our talents, and our skills to improve the lives of boys and young men beginning during the 2015-2016 school year. In addition, the NBA and the Council will be encouraging our affiliates and members to highlight ways in which individual city school systems and teams are partnering on behalf of our young people.

We hope that all of our teams and all of the urban school systems signing the pledge will work individually and collectively on this important goal that will not only enrich the lives of our males of color, but will help realize the full promise of our great country. Thank you.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Casserly".

Michael Casserly
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Jacobson".

Todd Jacobson
Senior Vice President, Social Responsibility
National Basketball Association