

I did not have a teacher of color in Pre-K through 12th grades, nor in college or in law school. I first worked closely with BIPOC women when I became a student lawyer representing women and children experiencing systemic racism and poverty in DC. My 20's should not have been the first time I learned from and with BIPOC people. These women were incredibly skilled protectors of their families. I learned so much from them but they should not have been my first teachers. White allies, as well as children of color, need racially diverse teachers in pre-K12 to see Black excellence in action. I urge you to protect less senior BIPOC educators in layoff situations by requiring a proportional staffing lens. Representation matters to all students in all communities. Thank you.
Peyton