

“Developing Young Kings In-School Institute”

The “Developing Young Kings In-School Institute” is a transformational small-group mentoring and leadership development program designed specifically to support male students academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally within the school setting. Created by Dr. O’nae Chatman, this innovative program helps schools address two of the most pressing challenges facing education today: student discipline issues and student apathy.

Through engaging discussions, mentorship, leadership training, emotional intelligence development, and real-world life skills, the Developing Young Kings Institute creates a safe and empowering environment where young men can grow in confidence, accountability, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose. The program is intentionally designed to meet students where they are while helping them develop the mindset and habits needed for long-term success both inside and outside of the classroom.

Students participating in the program engage in monthly or ongoing small-group sessions focused on:

- Emotional intelligence and self-management
- Decision-making and accountability
- Leadership development
- Conflict resolution
- Goal setting and academic motivation
- Respect, character, and discipline
- Identity, confidence, and self-worth
- Life skills and future planning

What makes the Developing Young Kings In-School Institute so impactful is its relationship-centered approach. Many students do not simply need punishment; they need connection, guidance, exposure, and consistent mentorship. The program focuses heavily on building trust with students while helping them understand the power of their choices, attitudes, and behaviors.

Schools implementing the program have reported:

- Reductions in discipline referrals and behavioral incidents
- Increased student engagement and participation
- Improved attendance and classroom behavior
- Higher levels of student confidence and accountability
- Stronger relationships between students and school staff
- Improved school culture and climate among male students

The success of the program is rooted in its ability to combine mentorship, social-emotional learning, leadership development, and culturally responsive engagement in ways that resonate with young men. Rather than simply addressing negative behaviors, the Developing Young Kings Institute helps students discover purpose, leadership, and personal responsibility.

This program is ideal for middle schools, high schools, alternative schools, mentoring initiatives, and districts seeking proactive strategies to support male student achievement and create lasting cultural change within their schools.