

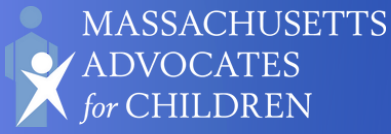


HAITIAN HERITAGE RESOURCES

A list of culturally affirming resources
focusing on the intersectionality of
Haitian heritage and disability.

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Below you will find a list of culturally affirming resources, focusing on the intersectionality of Haitian Heritage and disability as well as information about Haitian leaders doing amazing work across Boston.

Jevon Okundaye
Racial Equity and Access Program

Haitian-Creole Dual Language Programs

Haitian American children are often bilingual in English and Haitian Creole. There are many benefits to being bilingual, such as cognitive development, social-emotional development, academic success, and long-term success later in life. To learn more about the benefits to being bilingual, here is a link to an article:

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/early-learning/talk-read-sing/bilingual-en.pdf>.

**"Being able to speak
Creole helps me better
connect with both my
family and my country."**

- Jonas Desir, Haitian-Creole learner



BPS Spotlight: Haitian Creole Dual Language Program in BPS



- In September 2017, Boston Public Schools launched the first Haitian Creole Dual Language program in the country. Named after the leader of the Haitian Revolution, the Toussaint L'Ouverture Academy at the Mattahunt Elementary School in Mattapan educates students in grades K1-6 in both English and Haitian Creole across all subjects and allows students to maintain an important part of their culture. The academy's founding class took the 3rd grade MCAS and outperformed their peers in school.
- To learn more about BPS' Haitian Creole Dual Language program, here are links to articles:

BPS Website Article

[Multilingual and Multicultural Education / Haitian Creole-English Two-Way Immersion \(bostonpublicschools.org\)](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/multilingual-and-multicultural-education/haitian-creole-english-two-way-immersion)

Boston Globe Article

[In Mattapan's Haitian Creole program, a taste of the bilingual education BPS wants to expand - The Boston Globe](#)

Atlantic Article

[Haitian Creole–English Language School Opens in Boston - The Atlantic](#)

BPS Spotlight: Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)



- Haitian American children are often classified as English Learner (EL) students, meaning that they learn English as a second language. Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) is a program in which EL students who speak the same native language are taught academic content in English and receive clarification in their native language when needed. The purpose of SEI is to make grade-level academic content more accessible to EL students. EL students also learn the English language through English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. Haitian Creole SEI is offered in Taylor Elementary for grades K1-5, TechBoston Academy for grades 6-12, and Community Academy of Science and Health for grades 9-12.

- To learn more about BPS' SEI program, here are the links to the website:
 - [Multilingual and Multicultural Education / Sheltered English Immersion \(SEI\)](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/multilingual-multicultural-education/sheltered-english-immersion-sei) ([bostonpublicschools.org](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org)).
 - [Multilingual and Multicultural Education / SEI Language Specific Program](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/multilingual-multicultural-education/sei-language-specific-program) ([bostonpublicschools.org](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org)).

BPS Spotlight: Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE)

- High Intensity Literacy Training (HILT) for SLIFE is a program for newcomer EL students, who are at least two years behind their grade level in native language literacy and have limited or interrupted formal schooling. SLIFE is a program in which these students receive both intensive literacy instruction and age-appropriate academic content instruction in their native language. When they exit this program, students are prepared to enter a Sheltered English Immersion program.

- Haitian SLIFE is offered in Taylor Elementary for grades 3–5, TechBoston Academy for grades 6–12, and Newcomers Academy for grades 9–12.
- To learn more about BPS' SLIFE program, here is the link to the website: [Multilingual and Multicultural Education / Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education \(SL \(bostonpublicschools.org\)\)](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/multilingual-and-multicultural-education/students-with-limited-or-interrupted-formal-education)



BPS Spotlight: Boston District English Learner Advisor Council (DELAC)

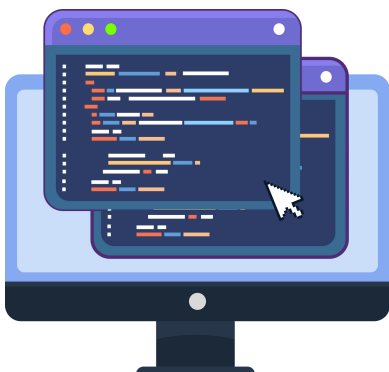
- Multilingual Haitian students may be identified as English Learner (EL) students, meaning that they learn English as a second language. **Boston District English Learner Advisor Council (DELAC) is a group of parents of EL students in BPS who discuss issues related to their children's education.** The vision of the Haitian Creole DELAC is for BPS to honor the Haitian Creole community by creating K-12 Language Programming and to integrate the language, culture, and needs of the community in decision making.
- **To learn more about DELAC, here are links to the website:**
 - [BPS DELAC – Haitian Creole \(bostonpublicschools.org\)](#) (While this page is not updated, a variety of resources exist that may be useful)
 - [BPS DELAC – Haitian ELAC \(bostonpublicschools.org\)](#)

Spotlight: Education Focused Resources

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

IFSI PLUS+ AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM – PROGRAMS (IFSI-USA.ORG)

IFSI offers educational programming and fosters a nurturing and safe environment for students to learn and develop intellectual curiosity. The teachers are bilingual in Haitian Creole to ensure clear communication and culturally appropriate classes. IFSI Plus+ After School Program provides small group and individual homework help, grade appropriate skill building, English language instruction, musical instrument instruction, chess lessons, a coding club, robotics, and test preparation for exam and independent school entrance.



Spotlight: Education Focused Resources

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

IFSI PLUS+ SUMMER PROGRAM – PROGRAMS (IFSI-USA.ORG)

IFSI offers educational and extracurricular activities for Pre-K to 6th grade students during the summer. IFSI Plus+ Summer Program has academic skill building activities to reduce summer learning loss. IFSI Plus+ Summer Program has enrichment-based activities, such as music lessons, art, physical fitness, field trips, and science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) projects, to give students the opportunity to explore new interests that might not normally be available.

To learn more about the IFSI Plus+ Summer Program, here is a link to an article: [Summer camp helps Haitian migrants adjust, get ready for school year in Boston | Dorchester Reporter \(dotnews.com\)](#).



Spotlight: Culturally Affirming Resources - Haitian American Organizations in Boston

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF HAITIAN PARENTS (MAHP)



- MAPH advocates for the educational rights of Haitian children in public, private, and charter schools from pre-school to college. MAPH's mission is to educate, empower, and celebrate the culture of diverse Haitian communities. MAPH focuses on parent advocacy, native-language instruction, serving students, and educational justice.
- MAPH helps BPS parents gain access to the resources to support their children's education.

HAITIAN AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE (HAPHI)



- HAPHI promotes the health and well-being of the Haitian community. HAPHI provides members of the Haitian American community with culturally and linguistically accessible information and services as well as prevention, education, and direct service programs.

ASSOCIATION OF HAITIAN WOMEN IN BOSTON (AFAB)



- AFAB empowers low-income Haitian women and their children. AFAB promotes Haitian women's access to social and economic opportunities by expanding their knowledge, developing their abilities to become self-sufficient, and taking control of their destiny.

HAITI DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (HDI)



- HDI addresses health, education, and economic development problems in Haitian communities, which requires capacity, resources, civic engagement, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

HAITIAN-AMERICANS UNITED, INC (HAU)



- HAU improves the quality of life for Haitians and Haitian-Americans through education, Community Empowerment, and cultural development, using an approach where participation and unity are strongly favored.

IMMIGRANT FAMILY SERVICES INSTITUTE, INC (IFSI)



- IFSI improves the lives and increases the opportunities for recent immigrants and their families. IFSI provides academic support that addresses the unique challenges of immigrant children. IFSI also runs programs for recent immigrants to increase access to education, employment, and healthcare.

THE BOSTON CENTER FOR REFUGEE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS (BCRHHR) AT BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER (BMC)



- BCRHHR at BMC specializes in working with immigrants who have survived trauma in their country of origin. BCRHHR provides mental health services, such as counseling and medication management, to refugees and immigrants and offers a place of safety and trust.

HAITIAN MENTAL HEALTH (HMH) NETWORK



- HMH Network creates a supportive and inclusive learning environment for Haitian mental health providers and allies, holds community conversations on topics related to mental health, and celebrates culturally and spiritually based practices that lead to community well-being and mental wellness.
- HMH Network has compiled a list of mental health clinics and centers that are staffed by clinicians who are fluent in Haitian Creole and / or French. The list can be found here:
<https://www.hmhnetwork.org/mental-health-clinics-centers/>

HAITIAN HEALTH INSTITUTE (HHI)



- HHI develops and promotes innovative programs that address the disparities in health and educating facing children, youth, and families, including youth with disabilities.

PARTNERS IN HEALTH (PIH)



- PIH provides better health care to poor communities around the world and brings modern medical science to those in need. PIH is the largest non-profit health care provider in Haiti. In Haiti, PIH provides health care to people living with chronic diseases, maternal healthcare to expectant mothers, lifesaving medicine to malnourished children, and mental health services to people with depression, psychotic disorders, post-traumatic stress, and other conditions.

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR HAITIAN FAMILIES

- This resource includes medical resources, immigration legal resources, mental health resources, employment resources, English resources, and social supports.

SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY

- This resource includes social and medical services for Haitian families in MA.

Spotlight: Resources for Haitian Families of Autistic Children

Autism Acceptance Month was in April and serves as a time to celebrate the Autistic community. Autistic Haitian children may experience a unique set of challenges based on the intersection of race, disability, English Learner (EL) status, and immigration status.

- MAC Resources:
 - [School Success for Haitian Children with Autism \(weebly.com\)](#)
 - A Haitian parent training manual to overcome cultural, language, and other barriers
 - [Publication: School Success for Haitian Children with Autism – Massachusetts Advocates for Children \(massadvocates.org\)](#)
- Sabine's story, a MAC success story, a Haitian American mother of an autistic son, Maxime
 - [Sabine's Story – Autism Around The Globe](#)

- Autism509, founded by Yveline Alexandre, a Haitian American mother of an autistic child
 - [Haitian moms of autistic kids aim to remove stigma, get services - The Haitian Times](#)
 - [Autism509 | Bradenton FL | Facebook](#)
- Jay's story, the story of a Haitian Autistic child
 - [Jay's Story: A Child With Autism, A LIFE That Moved Many \(mylifespeaks.com\)](#)
- Evelyne Milorin's success story, a Haitian American mother of an autistic son, Reggie
 - [The Medford Haitian Oral History Project \(haitianmedford.com\)](#)
- Cynthia Laine, a Haitian American mother of two autistic boys, the founder of the [Black Autism Coalition \(BAC - Black Autism Coalition\)](#), a member of the inaugural advisory board of MAPH, and a Haitian Creole interpreter and translator for Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings

Spotlight: Haitian Leaders in Boston



Ruthzee Louijeune is the 1st Haitian American to serve on the Boston City Council, was elected as City Councilor At-Large in 2021, and took office in 2022. Ruthzee is the daughter of working-class immigrants from Haiti, was born and raised in

Mattapan and Hyde Park, and attended Boston Public Schools. As City Councilor At-Large, Ruthzee is advocating for affordable housing and homeownership, support for immigrant communities, improved funding and teacher diversity at schools, and racial justice and equity. To learn more about Ruthzee, here is a link to her bio: [Ruthzee Louijeune | Boston.gov](#).

Spotlight: Haitian Leaders in Boston



Marie St. Fleur was the 1st Haitian American to hold public office in MA and was a former State Representative of Boston neighborhoods Dorchester and Roxbury from 1999 to 2011. While in office, Marie served as the Chair on the Joint Committee

of Education, Arts, and Humanities and helped establish the MA Board and Department of Early Education and Care. To learn more about Marie, here is a link to her bio: [Black History Boston: Marie St. Fleur | Boston.gov.](#)

Spotlight: Haitian Leaders in Boston



Linda Dorcena Forry was the 2nd Haitian American to hold public office in MA. Linda is the daughter of Haitian immigrants and grew up in Dorchester's Uphams Corner neighborhood. In 2005, Linda was elected to the MA House of

Representatives in 2005. From 2005 to 2013, she represented the Commonwealth's 12th Suffolk District, which included parts of the town of Milton and the city of Boston, including Dorchester, Hyde Park, and Mattapan. In 2013, Linda was elected to the MA State Senate. From 2013 to 2018, Linda was the senator of the Commonwealth's 1st Suffolk District, which included Dorchester, Mattapan, South Boston and Hyde Park. To learn more about Linda, here is a link to her bio: [Senator Linda Dorcena Forry_\(malegislature.gov\)](#).

Spotlight: Haitian Leaders in Boston



Dr. Michel DeGraff is a Professor of Linguistics at MIT and the director of the MIT-Haiti Initiative. Dr. DeGraff is also a founding member of Haiti's Haitian Creole Academy. His research has deepened BPS' understanding of the history

and structures of Creole languages. Due to systemic racism and anti-Black racism, these languages have often been, mistakenly, described as “exceptional,” “lesser” or “deficient,” and they have been, by and large, excluded from the education of Creole speakers. Dr. DeGraff is working to rectify this injustice. To learn more about Dr. DeGraff, here is a link to his bio: [Michel DeGraff | Linguistics \(mit.edu\)](#).