

ABSTRACT

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Title: “THERE WILL BE MORE OF US”: INFLUENCES ON AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHERS’ RETENTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The purpose of this research study is to explore the experiences of African American teachers who have taught for over four years in a public school in a medium size city in New England. In particular, this qualitative study responds to a gap in the literature on Black teachers by seeking to understand the key factors that influence their retention and allow them to continue in the field of education. The research questions that guide this study include the following: What are the different experiences of African American teachers? What are the barriers that African American teachers face? What are the supports that African American teachers have? Finally, how does their relationship with children influence their retention? Findings suggest Black teachers face many barriers within the field such as racism towards themselves and the racism that they believe students of color face in a broken educational system, but there are factors such as a strong sense of community and influential mentors or leaders in their life that African American teachers can attribute to their retention.