The Minority Male Initiative: *The Brotherhood*
AT A GLANCE

Improving Academic Achievement through Relationships, Counseling, Leadership and Character Development

The Purpose

This district initiative was developed to address the academic and social issues facing our young men of color. It is our intent to assist these young men in their pursuit of excellence through fun and motivational activities that will strengthen and enhance their academic and social skills.

The Problem

Within our district, students of color are suspended at a much higher rate than white students, with African American male students being suspended at a rate of six times that of white students. Students of color rank the lowest in academic achievement, but the highest in discipline referrals, suspensions, and drop-outs. These statistics are alarming and we must begin to reverse this trend within our district.

The Approach

With the assistance and use of principals, counselors, social workers, community members and research on best practices, we have developed a framework for action that will assist male students of color. We have selected three middle schools and their feeder high schools to participate in the pilot (*Jackson Middle, Smith High, Northeast Middle, Northeast High, Welborn Middle and Andrews High*). Each school will tailor their program to meet the needs and interest of their students, but each program will contain some common elements (*student/parent learning contract, support and intervention services, goal-setting, community service and interesting field experiences*).

The pilot program will be monitored on a continuous basis to ensure progress toward meeting the intended purpose.

The Outcome

The success of this pilot program will be determined based upon the improvement in the young men's attendance, grades and tests. Another factor of success will include parental involvement and our ability to meet their needs as outlined in their personalized success plans (PSP).

The Areas of Focus

- Cultural, Academic and Social Experiences
- Community Service
- Reading List/Books
- Public Speaking
- Personal Finance Management
- Peer Pressure
- Etiquette
- Supplemental Academic Services