

## Ja'Nya Banks

PhD Candidate, Berkeley School of Education  
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### Education

**Doctorate of Education Policy, Politics and Leadership** Expected: May 2027  
Berkeley School of Education, University of California, Berkeley

**Master's of Science of Education in Educational Policy** May 2021  
Penn Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania

**Master's of Education in Special Education** May 2019  
Dept. Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education, University of Maryland

**Bachelor of Science in Special Education, Minor of Public Leadership** May 2018  
Dept. Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education; School of Public Policy  
University of Maryland

### Awards and Fellowships

- Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry, Discovery Fellowship, \$7,500 2025
- Diversity and Community Fellow, Office of Graduate Diversity, \$7,000 2024, 2025
- Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Graduate Student Award, \$6,000 2024
- Graduate Mentored Award, \$30,000 2023
- Ford Foundation, Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention 2023

### Publications

Slovick, A., Fuller, B., Huang, C., Bryant, C., **Banks, J.** (2023). California's push for universal pre-K: Uneven school capacity and racial disparities in access. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*. 22(2), 285-296.

### Reports

**Banks, J.**, Vang, K. (2025). Kings County Early Care and Education Needs Assessment Report. Center for District Innovation and Leadership in Early Education.

**Banks, J.**, Fuller, B., Gao, N., Reich, E., Slovic, A. (2024). Recovery and Renewal: How California School Districts Set Budget Priorities and Innovations to Lift Students. American Institutes for Research.

**Banks, J.**, Bryant, C., Fuller, B., Huang, C., Slovic, A. (2022). How pre-K may narrow early gaps in children's learning: California's roll-out of universal transitional kindergarten. *Berkeley Children's Forum and District Innovation and Leadership in Early Education*.

### Books

Blonder, B. W., **Banks, J.**, Cruz, A., Dornhaus, A., Godfrey, R. K., Hoskinson, J. S., Lipson, R., Sommers, P., Stewart, C., Strauss, A. Place Based Scientific Inquiry: A Practical Handbook for Teaching Outside. (2023). Routledge, New York.

### Publications in Progress

**Banks, J.** Beyond the Bounds: Alternate Advocacy Practices in Oakland Unified School District.

**Banks, J.** & Glave, C. Exploring the Impact of Race on Special Education Due Process Usage in

California

**Banks, J.** Understanding the Impact of Socio-Cultural Coursework for Future Educators Prior to Pre-Service Training

**Conference Presentations**

Banks, J. Presidential Session, Against the Grain: Doctoral Students Charting New Paths in Education Research. (Accepted, 2026)

Banks, J. & Glave, C.\* (2024) "Exploring the Impact of Race on Special Education Due Process Usage in California" Paper presented at the American Education Research Association. (April, 2025)

Banks, J. (2024). "Alternate Advocacy Practices in Oakland Unified School District." Paper presented at the Association for Education, Finance and Policy. (March, 2025)

Banks, J. (2023). Collective Commitment: Alternate Organizational Logics and Practices of Marginalized Stakeholders Opposing Resource Removal. Paper presented at the International Conference for Education and Justice. (December, 2024)

Banks, J. (2023). "Understanding the Impact of Socio-Cultural Coursework for Future Educators Prior to Pre-Service Training" Paper presented at the American Education Research Association. (April, 2024)

*\*PhD student author*

**Research**

**Co-Principal Investigator, Program Evaluation and Strategic Planning for the African American Achievement Leadership Initiative**, September 2025-Present

*Principal Investigator, Dr. Allison Firestone, San Francisco Unified School District*

Evaluation of the impact of the AAALI program on Black families in the district, analyzing the opportunities for district-level systemic change through programming and initiative reform

**Graduate Research Assistant, CA Recovery and Renewal**

*Principal Investigator, Dr. Bruce Fuller, Niu Gao, University of California, Berkeley and American Institutes for Research, August 2022-August 2025*

Mixed methods study with case study focus highlighting California school district use of emergency federal and state COVID funding to minimize learning opportunity gaps

**Research Assistant, Spencer Vision Grant: Disproportionality**

*Principal Investigator, Dr. Alfredo Artiles, Stanford University, June 2023- August 2024*

District and research partnership addressing racial disproportionality for Black students in Special Education through system policy change

**Researcher, Understanding the Impact of Socio-Cultural Coursework for Future Educators of Color**, June 2024- July 2025

*Principal Investigator: Dr. Travis Bristol, University of California, Berkeley*

Leading a research project to understand the orientation that undergraduate students develop towards the

field of teaching after engaging with marginalized communities in their coursework

**Research Fellow, Tri-County Early Childhood Education**, May 2023-Present

*District Innovation and Leadership in Early Education, University of Washington*

District and research partnership to develop toolkits and form strategic plans to improve the early learning landscape of over five school districts across California

**Research Assistant, California Transitional Kindergarten Expansion**, May 2022-August 2022

*Berkeley School of Education and District Innovation and Leadership in Early Education, University of Washington*

Qualitative case study identifying the implementation goals and challenges of California school districts expanding transitional kindergarten programs

**Education Leadership in COVID Crisis Study**, September 2020-May 2021

*Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE)*

Research assistant for nationwide qualitative research study using analyzing the impact of school leadership in managing an organization’s response to the COVID-19 closures.

**Teaching**

Adjunct Professor, Alder Graduate School of Education, Summer 2025

*Inclusive Education*

*Identity and Teaching*

Graduate Student Instructor, Berkeley School of Education, Fall 2021-Summer 2025

*Critical Studies of Education, EDUC190*

*Contemporary Issues in Higher Education, EDUC163, First Year Graduate Seminar, EDUC268*

Special Education Teacher, Case Manager, Montgomery County Public Schools, MD, 2018-2020

*Resource, Adaptive PE, Reading, Co-Teaching Model for General Education English*

Student Teacher, Special Education, Montgomery County Public Schools, MD, 2017-2018

*Full Inclusion Model*

**Service**

- Faculty Search Committee Member, Berkeley School of Education
- Undergraduate Mentor, Social Science Research Pathways, UC Berkeley
- Policy Committee Representative, Berkeley School of Education
- Editor, Berkeley Public Policy Journal, Goldman School of Public Policy