

# This Week in FBCH Freedom School

July 23, 2025

## Weekly Theme

*I can make a difference in my world*

## Ask Your Scholar

1. *What is the National Day of Social Action (NDSA)?*
2. *What have you and your class done to contribute to the NDSA?*
3. *Do you think Black history should be taught in public schools? Why or why not?*
4. *Do you believe you can make a difference in our world? How?*
5. *What was your favorite new word that you learned/heard this week?*

## Weekly Book List

*These are books that may be on the shelves in your Scholar's classroom to help the weekly theme come alive.*

- *"Facing Fear: An Immigration Story"* by Karen Lynn Williams
- *"Kids Who Are Saving the Planet"* by Laurie Calkhoven
- *"A Teacher Like You"* by Frank Murphy and Barbara Dan
- *"A Voice Like Yours"* by Frank Murphy and April Groman
- *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* by Kelly Starling Lyons
- *"Green: The Story of Plant Life on Our Planet"* by Nicola Davies
- *"Food for Hope: How John van Hengel Invented Food Banks for the Hungry"* by Laurentia Agatha

## Announcements, Reminders, and More

- A meal will be served today, July 23 and at the finale on August 1. Please be sure to sit with your Scholar at these family meals.
- Parents are asked to bring dessert to the finale scheduled for August 1, 1:00-3:00 pm. Please sign up on the clipboard.
- Please pick up your copy of "Soul School" if you have not received it yet.
- Now available - - The Online Parent Center is a hub for materials shared during Parent Engagement meetings. Our Online Parent Center can be found at [www.thefbch.org/fbch-freedom-school](http://www.thefbch.org/fbch-freedom-school), then select Parent Center.
- The July 30 parent engagement meeting will focus on "Advocacy in Action Continues Beyond Freedom School." Parents are asked to come prepared to share their advocacy work, share their own calls to action (e.g., civic event, letters, gallery walk, op-ed, etc.), reflect on our growth this past six weeks, and discuss the next steps in our advocacy journey.

**About Children Defense Fund's 2025 National Day of Social Action**  
**"Public Education is a Public Good"**

The National Day of Social Action (NDSA) is a collective organizing effort centered around CDF's mission to build community, so young people grow up with dignity, hope, and joy. This year's NDSA will take place on Wednesday, July 23 and will focus on CDF's [Education for Civic Life and Work](#) policy agenda item. This policy agenda item reflects CDF's belief that education is a building block for civic life and work and has a major impact on our children and youth's ability to flourish.

**Problem.** The United States spends 2.7 times as much (per person) on incarceration as it does in education. In 2022, we saw the most severe drop in math scores for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders since the first National Assessment of education Progress (NAEP) in 1990. Thirteen states have no civics course requirement, and only seven require a full year of government or civics instruction.

**Policy Path.** With your help, the CDF will advocate for public policy related to (1) positive youth development, (2) civics education, (3) workforce development, (4) culturally responsive pedagogy, and (5) equitable education funding formulas.

**NDSA at FBCH.** Through a panel discussion and informal conversations, First Baptist Church of Hampton Freedom School parents will learn from and exchange ideas with elected state officials, local school board members, and other school administration officials from Hampton City Schools and Newport News Public Schools.

**Confirmed Panelists.** The following have confirmed their participation in the panel discussion:

1. Bridget Adams, Director, Youth and Family Engagement, Newport News Public Schools (NNPS)
2. Megan Auman, Director of Elementary School Leadership, NNPS
3. Dr. Terri Best, Incoming NNPS School Board Chairman
4. Dr. John Caggiano, Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff, Hampton City Schools
5. Dr. Michele Mitchell, NNPS Superintendent
6. Del. Shelly Simonds, Virginia House District 70

