



Tia Lites, Ed.D

Principal, Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy

Dr. Tia Lites is currently the Principal of the Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy Charter Public School in Boston, MA; which is the only Historically Black College/ University schematically themed Middle School in its District. In Addition to her Secondary School Leadership, Tia is a Practicum Professor & Lecturer at the University of Massachusetts-Boston within the Graduate School of Education/ Educational Administration Program. In 2021, Tia founded "Dr.LitesProEd.com" to support

culturally proactive Educators based on her professional practice using the *Culturally Responsive School Leadership Framework* within her own school community.

Tia is a Newton Public Schools graduate (Class of 2001) and former METCO Student. Upon graduation, she was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC, where she earned her BA in Communication Arts & Marketing. In 2005, Tia was inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu National Honors Society. With her HBCU undergraduate experience complete, she returned to Massachusetts and earned a Master of Business Management from Cambridge College (2007) and a Master of Education from Lesley University (2010). Tia earned her Doctorate in Education in 2020; her defense was based on her research/data on positive outcomes for inner city Black students in urban schools where there are Black Principals or Vice Principals leading.

Her devotion is advancing successful, evidence-based practices in teaching and learning for students of color by fostering academic advancement pathways, creating a professional development pipeline designed to promote pedagogical experimentation, and designing creative delivery methods for quality instructional practices. In continuation of her work in education, she currently holds a position on the Think Kids Advisory Council through Mass General Hospital, an Educational Advisory and Curriculum Writing role for the H.E.Y. (High Energy Young) Sister Girls' Empowerment Program at Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center, and is a SXSW (South By Southwest) 2022 Speaker where she will be co-presenting on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline.

- **Leadership Superpower:** I am a radical thinker and a fearless School Leader. I will advocate and apply pressure for all of my students and families (past, present, and future) to have equitable, accessible, and cultivated learning experiences throughout their journeys.
- **What brings her joy:** Family, friends, travel, concerts, and HIGH HEELS!
- **Theme Song:** "Optimistic" by Sounds of Blackness