

Ayanna Cooper, Ed.D., is an instructor at the Howard University School of Education. She is an educator, bestselling author, storyteller, and keynote speaker whose passion for advocacy centers around primary and secondary linguistically diverse student populations. As a technical assistance provider, she supports leadership teams across various state departments of education and nonprofit organizations.

Cooper, a former TESOL International Association board member, serves as an advisory committee member for the Content Center English Language Proficiency Network, and as an advisory member for the National Association of English Learner Program Administrators (NAELPA). She is a U.S. Department of State English Language Specialist alumna, having served on two projects, one with the Kuwait Ministry of Education and the other in Brazil. In addition to consulting, Cooper stays close to classrooms by teaching pre-service teacher candidates at Howard University and has served as a TF at Harvard Graduate School of Education. As a visiting faculty member at Loyola Marymount University Center for Equity for English Learners (CEEL) she served as co-principal investigator for the Young, Bilingual, and Black in California policy brief. She is the author of several publications including *And Justice for ELs: A Leader's Guide to Creating and Sustaining Equitable Schools*, *Black Immigrants in the United States*; *Essays on the Politics of Race, Language and Voice* (co-edited), multiple book chapters, and as the founding editor of Language Magazine's Pass the Mic series.

As a committed knowledge seeker, Cooper earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Massachusetts Boston, master's degrees in education from Lesley University, Providence University College & Theological Seminary, and from Harvard Graduate School of Education, a specialist degree from Piedmont University, and a doctorate degree from Walden University.