

**CITY OF EVANSVILLE - 2026**

# **AURELIA S. BRADLEY**



*Educator, Civic Leader, Mentor*

Aurelia S. Bradley, born February 17, 1906, was the oldest of nine children and spent most of her life in Evansville. She graduated from Clark-Douglass High School and attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Bradley dedicated 31 years to teaching at Lincoln High School, where she left a lasting impact on generations of students.

During segregation, she trained her home economics students to prepare and serve meals for Black athletic teams traveling to Evansville to compete against Lincoln High School. During the Great Flood of 1937, she transformed the Home Economics Department kitchen into an almost 24-hour operation to help feed those affected by the disaster.

In 1962, following the integration of Evansville schools, Bradley became the first Black teacher at Columbia School, where she taught language arts and sewing until her retirement in 1972. A lifetime member of Liberty Baptist Church, she also held local, state, and national offices in the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. Bradley passed away at home on November 8, 2002, at the age of 96.