

Indicators of Being a Culturally Responsive Educator
Greeting students at the door; checking their mood meter
Communicating high expectations for all students
Allowing all students to have a voice
Developing an advisory group of students to foster strong teacher-student relationships and help students navigate social and emotional issues
Supporting all students with intentionality
Planning learning experiences of diverse perspectives
Encouraging instructional discourse and responding positively with students
Surveying students to connect with them about their cultures, interests, and prior knowledge
Bridging the gap between home and school
Utilizing academic games in the lesson
Actively engage students in learning

Culturally responsive teaching practices can assist educators in bridging differences in language, heritage, race, socio-economic status, trauma history, and ability for students. As a result, educators are realizing the need to intentionally focus on identifying effective methods for developing culturally responsive practices. Being a culturally responsive educator is a mindset. The mindset is of being able and willing to help all students excel and advance in their academic pursuits while occupying the space of understanding their cultural background and experiences to use this knowledge to assist students with making academic connections.

Effective educators recognize that culture influences their actions as well as the thoughts and behaviors of their students (Nuri-Robins, Lindsey, Lindsey & Terrell, 2012). Research has found that starting in infancy, the presence of warm, consistent relationships with responsive caregivers shapes the architecture of the developing brain and promotes the social, emotional, and cognitive competencies foundational to learning (Center on the Developing Child, 2016). Students who feel supported are more likely to show interest and motivation in learning and are more willing to take the risks and show the persistence necessary to learn (Sabol, & Pianta, 2012).

Sources

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