

## LEARNING SNAPSHOT

### Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Culturally responsive teaching uses ethnically diverse students' cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of references, and performance styles to make learning relevant (Gay, 2000; Gay, 2010).
- Culturally responsive pedagogy connects to learning styles by focusing on students' individual needs (Gay, 2000).
- Culturally relevant instruction empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills, and attitudes (Gay, 2000; Ladson-Billings, 1995; Moll, 1990).
- Culturally responsive pedagogy addresses the students' cultural knowledge, history, language, dialect, learning styles, and embraces contributions of parents and the community (Gay, 2000).
- Culturally responsive instruction is accessible by connecting content to students' lives outside of school (Gay, 2000; Gay, 2010).
- Culturally competent educators are aware of their own cultural identity, reflective, and willing to learn about the culture of their students and their families (National Education Association, 2015).
- Teachers committed to cultural relevancy see themselves as part of the community (Ladson-Billings, 1997).

#### Instructional Practices

- Utilize instructional materials reflecting diversity.
- Actively listen to students to understand their experiences and perspectives.
- View students' life experiences as assets and utilize a strength-based approach to instruction.
- Incorporate students' life experiences into classroom instruction.
- Use students' sense of identity to promote learning.
- Build and maintain positive relationships with students and their families.
- Encourage students to develop a critical consciousness of society.
- Cultivate school connectedness and a community of learners within the classroom, where students are free to take risks, disagree, and learn from each other.
- Hold all students to high academic standards.

## Resources

### **Multiculturalism in the Modern World Video: Jen Holladay at TEDxDenverTeachers**

Jen Holladay (2013), Highline Academy Charter School Board President, discusses how to embrace multiculturalism and teach students cultural competency, and how it is critical for competing and succeeding in our diverse democracy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5rKgDOs33U>

### **Getting Serious About Education Video: Culturally Relevant Teaching for New Century Students**

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings (2014), Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, University of Wisconsin–Madison, delivers this presentation as part of the John M. Wozniak Lecture Series at Loyola University Chicago. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5asJrgl4\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5asJrgl4_8)

### **Introduction to Culturally Relevant Pedagogy Video**

Presented by Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center (2010), experts Jackie Jordan Irvine, Geneva Gay, and Kris Gutierrez enlighten their audience about how to make culturally relevant pedagogy a reality in the classroom. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGTvjJuRaZ8>

### **Diversity Toolkit: Cultural Competence for Educators**

This online toolkit from the National Education Association (2015) contains teaching strategies for the culturally competent educator. <http://www.nea.org/tools/30402.htm>

### **Why Cultural Competence? To Help Educators Close Achievement Gaps**

This National Education Association webpage provides links to videos and resources that offer insights into the impact that cultural competence can have on closing achievement gaps. [www.nea.org/home/39783.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/39783.htm)

## References

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- Ladson-Billings, G. J. (1995). But that's just good teaching: The case for culturally relevant pedagogy. *Theory into Practice*, 34(3), 159–165. Retrieved from [http://equity.spps.org/uploads/but\\_that\\_s\\_just\\_ladson-billings\\_pdf.pdf](http://equity.spps.org/uploads/but_that_s_just_ladson-billings_pdf.pdf)
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