Family Engagement

Communication and Culture

Developed by the Technical Assistance Partnership for Equity at Bank Street College of Education

April 2022
Disclaimer

The resources shown are designed to provide helpful information. Resources are provided for instructional use purposes only and do not constitute NYSED endorsement of any vendor, author, or other sources. To the best of our knowledge, the resources provided are true and complete.
Our Team
Facilitators
Opening Reflection

• What Broad goals do you have for working with families this year?
• How do these goals drive the way you communicate with families to support students?
New York State Education Department Office of Special Education

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities

Self-Advocacy
Students engage in self-advocacy and are involved in determining their own educational goals and plan.

Family Partnership
Parents, and other family members, are engaged as meaningful partners in the special education process and the education of their child.

Specially-Designed Instruction
Teachers design, provide, and assess the effectiveness of specially-designed instruction to provide students with disabilities with access to participate and progress in the general education curriculum.

Research-Based Instruction
Teachers provide research-based instructional teaching and learning strategies and supports for students with disabilities.

Multi-tiered Support
Schools provide multi-tiered systems of behavioral and academic support.

Inclusive Activities
Schools provide high-quality inclusive programs and activities.

Transition Support
Schools provide appropriate instruction for students with disabilities in career development and opportunities to participate in work-based learning.
Learning Objectives

• Examine the impact of culture & communication in our practice as educators

• Explore the concept of culture & connect with the idea of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

• Explore strategies for effective collaboration between families, caregivers, and schools to support students
Norms and Community Agreements

• Participate to the Best of Your Abilities
• Speak your truth - Use “I” statements
• Ask clarifying questions and provide feedback
• Listen with respect
• Honor Confidentiality (What’s said here stays here, what’s learned here leaves here)
• Expect and Accept a lack of closure
• Push your growing edge
Impact of Communication

I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

PHOTO CREDIT: EVERETT COLLECTION
Communication and Culture

Body Language

Verbal

Tone
Communication and Culture: Listening

“Two people from different cultures can look at the same event and have very different reactions because of the meaning they attach to the event...”

(Jackson & Hammond, 2015 p. 23)
Reflection

Connect  Compare  Recall
What Is Culture?
A Definition of Culture

The way of life of a particular people, especially as shown in their ordinary behavior and habits, their attitudes toward each other, and their moral and religious beliefs.

Cambridge English Dictionary
Culture

Culture is more than food, art, music, and celebrations. It includes way of thinking, values, and forms of expression.

- Race
- Economic Background
- Gender
- Language
- Sexual Orientation
- Nationality
- Religion
- Ability
SURFACE CULTURE

Observable and concrete elements of culture

DEEP CULTURE

Unspoken knowledge and unconscious assumptions that influence our worldview and how we learn information

The Cultural Iceberg in Practice

“Schools then become a meeting point for cultures, containing children and adults who bring with them multiple facets of their identity, along with unique experiences and perspectives.”

(NYSED, 2019)
Activity: The Cultural Iceberg in Practice

• Recall a situation
• Consider the role of culture
• Reflect on the situation
• Apply a cultural lens
Break

Pause
Breathe
Stretch
Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

What comes to mind when you think of *Culturally Responsive Education*?
Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

Culturally Responsive approaches center student, family, and community voices.
Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education

CRSE requires educators to value differences in culture & identity and use them to facilitate learning.
The CRSE Framework

• Individually Review Page 2 of the CRSE Framework Handout
• Consider Communication and Culture
• Select at least:
  - 1 strategy that you’re doing/have done
  - 1 strategy you could do tomorrow
  - 1 strategy that you find challenging
• Reflection:
  - What strategies did you choose and why?
  - Where do you need support?
Closing

• Revisit Your Take Home Question:
  ▪ What systems and practices can you build to honor the communication styles and culture of the families and students you serve?

• What is one closing commitment you have?
Contact Us

TAP for Equity
tapequity@bankstreet.edu