

STEPS TO IMPROVE CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS IN CLASSROOMS

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If teachers get to know their students and the components of their personal and family lives, it will be simpler for them to adjust their lessons to various cultural contexts and form relationships with their students. By taking into account aspects like economic standing, family dynamics, the educational standards and goals that a family has for their child, as well as pupil preferences and experiences, the connection between teachers and pupils will be improved, and there will be potential to tailor education more specific to the student's needs and interests.

The second step in modifying your teaching and curriculum is to acknowledge your own personal biases, determine whether these biases are present in your existing practices, and take steps to eliminate them and become more culturally sensitive. The following stage is to take into account what you have learned about your pupils and make sure that your focus, standards, instructional strategies, and materials reflect and expose them to various cultural perspectives. Additionally, as opposed to more conventional classroom assessments, authentic types of assessment tools (such as observations, rubrics, conferring, and performance assignments) are more culturally and linguistically sensitive ways to gauge student performance and growth.

Engaging families and communities in the academic life of kids is one way to make the learning environment in your classroom more culturally sensitive. Families will feel more involved and at ease if bicultural and multicultural identity development is supported, which will ultimately increase the likelihood that they will partner with their children's schools (WIDA Consortium, 2013).

References:

Ferlazzo, L. (2020, March 1). Steps to Make Classrooms More Culturally Responsive (Opinion). Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-steps-to-make-classrooms-more-culturally-responsive/2020/03>