

Cultural Standards for Educators

Standard A: Culturally-responsive educators incorporate local ways of knowing and teaching in their work.

- A.1: Recognize the validity and integrity of the traditional knowledge systems
- A.2: Utilize the Elders' expertise in multiple ways in their teaching
- A.3: Provide opportunities and time for students to learn in settings where local Cultural knowledge and skills are naturally relevant
- A.4: Provide opportunities for students to learn through observation and hands-on demonstration of cultural knowledge and skills
- A.5: Adhere to the cultural and intellectual property rights that pertain to all aspects of the local knowledge they are addressing
- A.6: Continually involve themselves in learning about the local culture

Standard B: Culturally-responsive educators use the local environment and community resources on a regular basis to link what they are teaching to the everyday lives of the students.

- B.1: Regularly engage students in appropriate projects and experiential learning activities in the surrounding environment
- B.2: Utilize traditional settings such as camps as learning environments for transmitting both cultural and academic knowledge and skills
- B.3: Provide integrated learning activities organized around themes of local significance and across subject areas
- B.4: Are knowledgeable in all the areas of local history and cultural tradition that may have bearing on their work
- B.5: Seek to ground all teaching in a constructive process built on a local cultural foundation

Standard C: Culturally-responsive educators participate in community events and activities in appropriate and supportive ways.

- C.1: Become active members of the community in which they teach and make positive and culturally-appropriate contributions to the well-being of that community
- C.2: Exercise professional responsibilities in the context of local cultural traditions and expectations
- C.3: Maintain a close working relationship with and make appropriate use of the cultural and professional expertise of their co-workers from the local community

Standard D: Culturally-responsive educators work closely with parents to achieve a high level of complementary educational expectations between home and school

- D.1: Promote extensive community and parental interaction and involvement in their children's education
- D.2: Involve Elders', parents, and local leaders in all aspects of instructional planning and implementation
- D.3: Seek to continually learn about and build upon the cultural knowledge that students bring with them from their homes and communities
- D.4: Seek to learn the local heritage language and promote its use in their teaching

Standard E: Culturally-responsive educators recognize the full educational potential of each student and provide the challenges necessary for each of them to achieve that potential.

- E.1: Recognize cultural differences as positive attributes around which to build appropriate educational experiences
- E.2: Provide learning opportunities that help students recognize the integrity of the knowledge they bring with them and use that knowledge as a springboard to new understandings
- E.3: Reinforce the student's sense of cultural identity and place in the world
- E.4: Acquaint students with the world beyond their home community in ways that expand their horizons while strengthening their own identities
- E.5: Recognize the need for all people to understand the importance of learning about other cultures and appreciating what each has to offer