General Guidelines for Culturally Response Practice

**Enhance Cultural Knowledge** – Understand the dimensions on which cultures tend to differ, such as collectiveness versus individualistic orientations, expressiveness, communication styles, language.

**Enhance Cultural Awareness** – Explore and reflect your own assumptions, attitudes, and biases and understand that these views can influence the treatment of culturally different students.

**Validate Others’ Culture** – Acknowledge differences between students’ cultures, making race and culture visible.

**Build Caring Communities** – Establish positive school and classroom management practices in order to improve teacher/staff-student relationships.

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Diversity Tolerance & Responsiveness

Considerations
Culture is essential to our discussions related to:

- Diversity
- Disproportionality
- Inequality/disparity
- School discipline
- Academic achievement
- Special education

The local context is defined by...

- Nationality
- Racial identity
- Immigrant status
- Generation
- Gender
- SES
- Family structure
- Values
- Beliefs
- Disability
- Languages
- Sexual orientation
- Religion

The Challenge

Many students and their parents/guardians do not experience schools as culturally and contextually relevant. As a result, these are the students who are at high risk of academic failure, more frequent and negative disciplinary action, and increasingly adverse social behavioral outcomes.

Integrating Culturally Responsive Practices with SWPBS

We must consider unique variables, characteristics, and learning histories of students, educators, families, and community members in the implementation of school-wide PBS.

Culturally Responsive Practices Supporting Student Behavior – Use evidence-based practices such as proactive teaching and rewarding appropriate behavior. Involve adults from different cultural backgrounds and provide multiple examples to teach behavioral expectations.

Data Supporting Culturally Valid Decision Making – Involve stakeholders from different backgrounds in operationally defining inappropriate behaviors for your school environment. Disaggregate data by student race and ethnicity to assess presence of bias in discipline decisions.

Systems Supporting Culturally Responsive Staff Behavior – Encourage staff training on cultural knowledge and self-awareness.

Culturally Equitable Student Outcomes – Generate culturally equitable student outcomes, such as social competence and academic achievement.