

SEVEN SIGNATURE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES

1. **Relationship: The Child's Interest in the World:** CSCE Curriculum design focuses on capturing the child's interest in the world they experience, and that interest is nurtured as essential intrinsic motivation for learning.
2. **Relationship: The Teacher's Interest in the Child:** CSCE teachers focus on building relationships and strengthens those bonds through inner work, love, interest, enthusiasm, humor and intuition, Teachers connect their interest in the child to their enthusiasm for the material that is being learned.
3. **Relevance: Head, Heart, and Hand:** The curriculum balances academic with artistic and practical activities, always beginning with the heart - social emotional, - and then moving to the cognitive or the head, then closing with the hand, artistic work. In this way each lesson has 3 parts.
4. **Rigor: Whole to Part to Whole** the Child is asked to analyze and synthesize ("carry the cognitive load") because the lesson begins with the big picture whole, through circle song and story, goes then to mastering recall and fact and skills & then integrates back to whole through artistic activity.
5. **Instructional Program Coherence:** The spiraling structure of the TK-8 curriculum means that students are constantly encouraged to discover information and relationships and continuously build on what they already know.
6. **Instructional Program Coherence & Advancement & Acceleration to Close the Gap:** The TK-8 program is an "equity pedagogy" focused on program coherence that leads to deeper learning for all students through its multi-model approach (head, heart, hand), providing a path so students can accelerate in building capacity to continuously do more rigorous concept building work through offering multiple access points to key content while also accelerating skill building -- e.g. through use of story, art, theater, song while also becoming strong readers.
7. **Whole Child & Whole Community:** Full-Service Community School. The CSCE instructional practice spans head heart and hand and spans in school and out of school needs and services. CSCE extends its learning and growth in a coherent way through:
 - a. extended day for growth of whole child (through partnership with Attitudinal Healing Connection)
 - b. extended year (also during COVID-19 as distance learning summer school in partnership with CalStateTEACH);
 - c. mental health services to students and parents/guardians under tutelage from Educating for Change coaching (in partnership with Stepping Stone Consulting);

- d. food pantry in partnership (in partnership with Alameda County Food Bank and Oakland Head Start);
- e. mentoring for upper grade students (in partnership with FIAEB faith community partner Immanuel Baptist Church);
- f. urban gardening (in partnership with NUMI Foundation);
- g. community clean up (in partnership with East Oakland Congress of Neighborhood Illegal Dumping Committee);
- h. 100% Voting School (in partnership with FIAEB and FIA for Oakland Quality Schools);
- i. Parent/guardian classes (in partnership with Family Paths Oakland)

Adapted from “CSCE Signature Features to the 6 Principles” (CSCE Charter Renewal 2015) and drawing from CSCE design work with Ms. Zaretta Hammond, later author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students* (Hammond, 2016).