



Research. Results. Practice.

CULTIVATING CROSS-CULTURAL TOOLS

Tool #2: Cultural Learning

Why This Tool Matters

Cultural learning is the intentional process of acquiring accurate knowledge about cultures and applying that knowledge to teaching, leadership, and relationships. It replaces stereotypes with curiosity and helps educators engage communities as sources of expertise rather than assumptions.

What It Looks Like in Schools

Adding culturally diverse books to a classroom library is only the beginning. Effective cultural learning means educators also understand the historical and cultural contexts behind those texts. For example, teaching *The Hate U Give* requires understanding the history of policing within Black communities so discussions move beyond surface-level conversations.

Cultural learning also means approaching families with curiosity:

Instead of asking,

"Is it true that...?"

ask,

"I'd like to learn more about your family's experiences..."

Cultivating This Tool

- Read books written by diverse authors.
- Attend community events.
- Learn from families.
- Use credible cultural resources.
- Reflect on your own cultural lens.

Reflection Questions

- Where do I currently learn about cultures?
- Which voices are missing?
- How has my learning influenced my teaching?

Fill Your Shopping Cart

Attend one community event this month.

Read one book outside your own cultural experience.

Talk with one family about their educational journey.

References

Fergus, E. *Desegregating Ourselves*, Chapter 5.

Rasmussen & Sieck (2015).