Social-Emotional Learning and Development through A Culturally Responsive Lens

Across the country, there is a movement underway to bring social-emotional learning and development practices to classrooms. Neuroscience points out its benefits to student learning and sense of belonging. Yet, most SEL programs are reflective of the dominant culture and doesn’t leverage the practices from diverse communities. In other cases, SEL programs are seen as a way to “fix” diverse students. To be effective in schools with large student populations from communities of color and diverse language communities, educators must learn to make SEL practices more bi-cultural.

What You Can Expect:

We will examine the connection between cognition and social-emotional wellbeing for students. In addition, we will explore how emotions work for or against diverse students in the classroom depending on whether an intellectually safe space has been created. We will go beyond over-simplistic strategies to understand how we can integrate affective and relational aspects into instruction in order to help students build an academic mindset.

Learning Outcomes

- Discover the critical connections between student learning, culturally responsive practices and neuroscience that makes social-emotional learning and development central to equity.
- Identify the cultural lens that influences your social-emotional orientation
- Build your understanding of social-emotional expression through a collectivism cultural lens
- Create a SEL “playbook” of strategies that leverage collectivist SEL practices

Who Should Attend?

- Educators implementing a social-emotional program in their classrooms.
- Administrators responsible for implementing new district SEL initiatives.
- Coaches charged with supporting teachers implementing SEL practices.

Note: This isn’t a “train the trainer” workshop. It is not designed for professional developers who wish to bring “strategies” back to their staff. It is for professional developers who are building their own personal knowledge and capacity.