



Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices

TARGETED GRADUATION INDICATORS

REDUCE OUT-OF-CLASSROOM REFERRALS, DETENTIONS, SUSPENSIONS (FORMAL AND INFORMAL) AND EXPULSIONS
CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAP BETWEEN STUDENTS OF COLOR AND WHITE PEERS
ACCESS TO RIGOROUS CONTENT AND HIGH EXPECTATIONS



OREGON EXAMPLE

Eastern Oregon University's Center for Culturally Responsive Practices is a resource dedicated solely to CRP. Educators, researchers, students and university faculty access the Center as a means to "...to explore and integrate culturally responsive pedagogy and practices in P-20 educational settings" (Center for Culturally Responsive Practices, 2017). The Center provides:

- Access to current CRPP research
- Resources that promote equity and engaged learning across the curriculum
- Tools to reach educational learning outcomes and standards
- Opportunities to collect data, conduct research and promote CRP scholarship
- Forums to share research

WHY WAS THE STRATEGY CHOSEN?

To meet the needs of the changing populations, the Center focuses on CRP to provide cultural training to the educators who will teach these students across the state.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

Culturally Responsive Practices (CRP) are defined as "using the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of reference, and performance styles of ethnically diverse students to make learning more relevant and effective for them" (Gay, 2000). CRP requires educators have the skills and knowledge to address students' diverse cultural experiences, while acknowledging the dominant cultural aspects of school and the "cultural mismatch" that ensues. CRP "...recognizes, respects, and uses students' identities and backgrounds as meaningful sources for creating optimal learning environments" (Nieto, 2005), while simultaneously upholding rigorous academic standards and high expectations for student achievement and success.

St. Paul School District in St. Paul, Minnesota, is an example of a district-wide effort and approach to embracing and implementing Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices (CRPP). The district, in collaboration and relationship with CRPP experts, has implemented and sustained CRPP as a cultural shift in how instruction is delivered to its student body. In addition to a multi-district collaborative which focuses on shifting the mindset and skillset of administrators and educators, the district's Multicultural Resource Center provides educators and families with clear and common definitions of CRPP and examines why it is important for 21st Century learners. The center also provides resources, materials, and learning opportunities to ensure that messaging and understanding is synchronized.

FUNDING OF THE STRATEGY

In 2014, Eastern Oregon University was the recipient of a \$198,880 grant from the Oregon Department of Education. The grant funded a five-year plan to create the Center for Culturally Responsive Practices as a pre- and in-service teacher resource center, in addition to developing and sustaining a five-district partnership to improve educator and administrator knowledge about CRP.



EVIDENCE THE STRATEGY IS EFFECTIVE

In Oregon, the research on CRP's effectiveness has been growing since 2000. CRP has been a featured part of Education Northwest's Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) research as scholars looked at key practices for historically underserved populations. The research reviewed by the REL "indicates that culturally responsive practices, which include having high expectations and standards for learning, are indeed related to student success, even if few studies have been undertaken to make this connection explicit" (Education Northwest REL, 2005). These practices are:

- A climate of caring, respect and valuing of students' culture fostered in the classroom
- Bridges built between academic learning and students' prior understanding, knowledge, (home) language and values
- Educators learn from and about their students' culture, language and learning styles to make instruction more meaningful and relevant to students' lives
- Local knowledge, language and culture are fully integrated into the curriculum, not added to it
- Staff members hold students to high standards and have high expectations for all students
- Effective classroom practices are challenging, cooperative and hands-on, with less emphasis on rote memorization and lecture formats
- School staff builds trust and partnerships with families, especially with families marginalized by schools in the past

THE STRATEGY IS WORKING IN OREGON

The Center for Culturally Responsive Practices continues to maintain its five-district partnership, in addition to providing workshops and a summer institute focused on changes and improvements in pedagogy and practices. Out of this partnership, Eastern Oregon University (EOU) designed and launched a Center for Culturally Responsive Practices. The Center began developing a network of K-12 educators committed to culturally responsive practices in the region.

Three professional development workshops were used to bring EOU faculty, youth and educators from the Umatilla, Milton-Freewater, Hermiston and Pendleton school districts together. Early in the Center's development, staff decided to concurrently launch the Oregon Teacher Pathways (OTP) program, funded by another state grant, using shared resources and partners from the region. The OTP serves to "...increas(e) the number of quality diversity teachers in Oregon" and "...produce quality teachers trained in culturally responsive practice" (Eastern Oregon University, 2017), and is now a sustainable presence in Eastern Oregon. A center website at www.eou.edu/ccrp provides references to relevant articles and books, video clips from the professional development workshops, and identifies current staff, partners, and events in the region. (Nine, 2015)

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/ode.

LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH

Video of Culturally Responsive Training by Geneva Gay in Oregon

https://www.eou.edu/ccrp/events/geneva_gay/dr-geneva-gay-september-19-20-2014-2/

Education Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. 2005. *Culturally Responsive Practices for Student Success: A Regional Sampler*.

<http://educationnorthwest.org/sites/default/files/culturally-responsive-practices.pdf>

Research and Resources for implementation 2017. *Multicultural Resource Center*. St Paul Public Schools.

<http://www.spps.org/Page/4028>

2017. Center for Culturally Responsive Practices. Eastern Oregon University.

<https://www.eou.edu/ccrp/>

S. Nine (2015). pp 44-48. Final Evaluation Report: Evaluating and Learning from Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practices Grantees in Oregon.

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/cultresprojvalrpt.pdf>

State Library Graduation Improvement Resources:

http://libguides.osl.state.or.us/grad_outcomes

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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