

New York State Education Department Office of Special Education

**Educational Partnership** 

























## Family Engagement

**Communication and Culture** 

Developed by the Technical Assistance Partnership for Equity at Bank Street College of Education April 2022



### Disclaimer

The resources shown are designed to provide helpful information. Resources are provided for instructional use purposes only and do not constitute NYSED endorsement of any vendor, author, or other sources. To the best of our knowledge, the resources provided are true and complete.

## Our Team

## **Facilitators**

### **Opening Reflection**

- What Broad goals do you have for working with families this year?
- How do these goals drive the way you communicate with families to support students?



- Photo by Bank Street College of Education 6

# Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities



### **Self-Advocacy**

Students engage in self-advocacy and are involved in determining their own educational goals and plan.



### Family Partnership

Parents, and other family members, are engaged as meaningful partners in the special education process and the education of their child.



### Specially-Designed Instruction

Teachers design, provide, and assess the effectiveness of specially-designed instruction to provide students with disabilities with access to participate and progress in the general education curriculum.



#### Research-Based Instruction

Teachers provide research-based instructional teaching and learning strategies and supports for students with disabilities.



### Multi-tiered Support

Schools provide multi-tiered systems of behavioral and academic support.



### **Inclusive Activities**

Schools provide high-quality inclusive programs and activities.



### **Transition Support**

Schools provide appropriate instruction for students with disabilities in career development and opportunities to participate in work-based learning.



### **Learning Objectives**

- Examine the impact of culture & communication in our practice as educators
- Explore the concept of culture & connect with the idea of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education
- Explore strategies for effective collaboration between families, caregivers, and schools to support students

## **Norms and Community Agreements**

- Participate to the Best of Your Abilities
- Speak your truth- Use "I" statements
- Ask clarifying questions and provide feedback
- Listen with respect
- Honor Confidentiality (What's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here)
- Expect and Accept a lack of closure
- Push your growing edge

### **Impact of Communication**



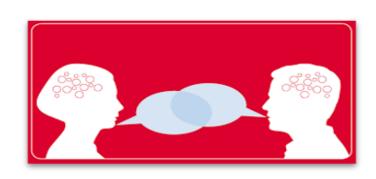
I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

PHOTO CREDIT: EVERETT COLLECTION

### **Communication and Culture**







**Body Language** 

**Verbal** 

**Tone** 

# **Communication and Culture: Listening**

"Two people from different cultures can look at the same event and have very different reactions because of the meaning they attach to the event..."

(Jackson & Hammond, 2015 p. 23)



### Reflection



**Connect Compare Recall** 

- Photo by Pete Deutschman

# What Is Culture?





### **A Definition of Culture**

The way of life of a particular people, especially as shown in their ordinary behavior and habits, their attitudes toward each other, and their moral and religious beliefs.

Cambridge English Dictionary

## **Culture**

Culture is more than food, art, music, and celebrations. It includes way of thinking, values, and forms of expression.

- Race
- Economic Background
- Gender
- Language
- Sexual Orientation
- Nationality
- Religion
- Ability

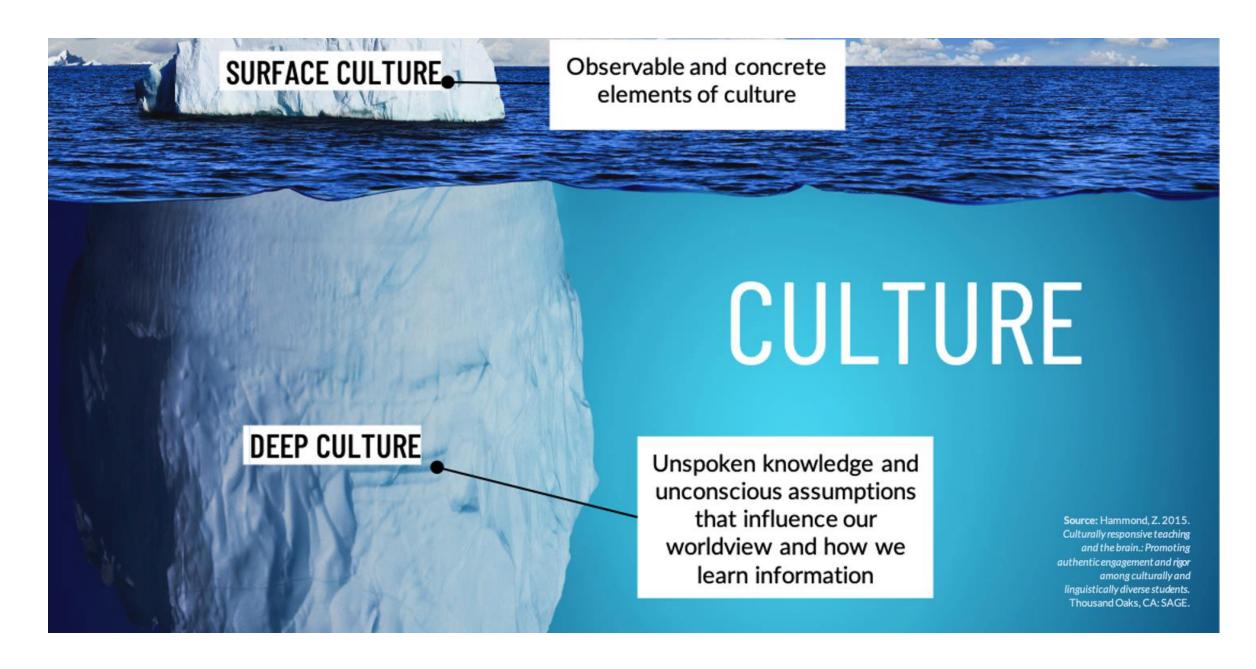


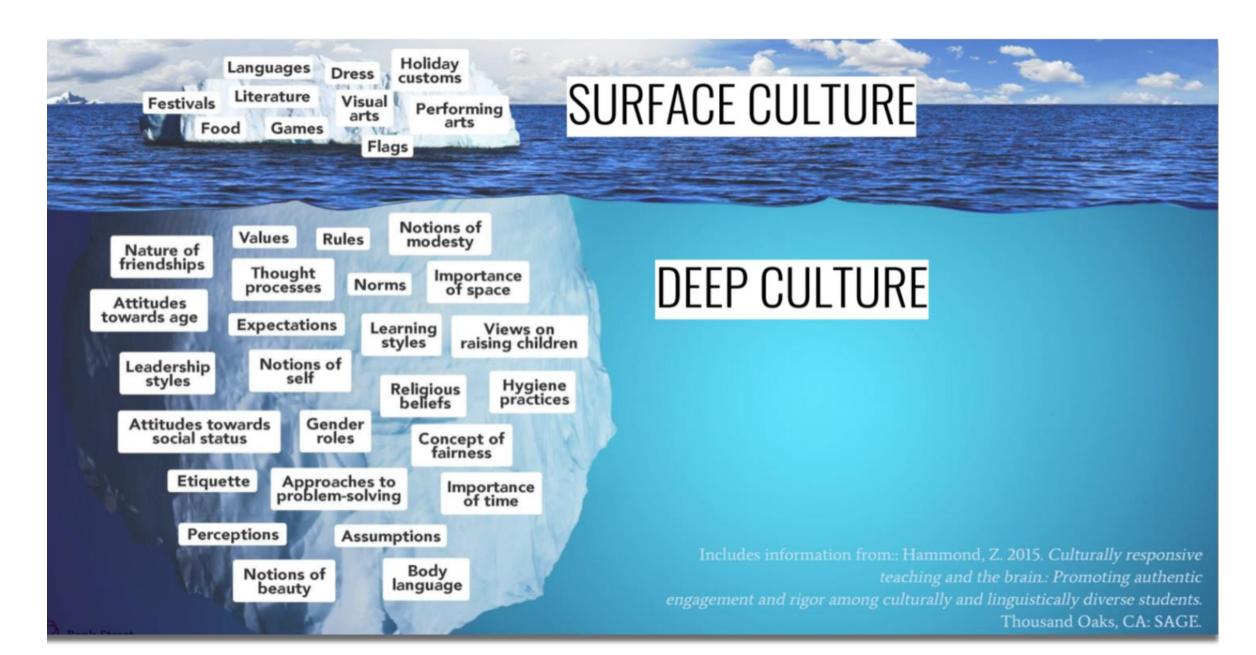












### The Cultural Iceberg in Practice



"Schools then become a meeting point for cultures, containing children and adults who bring with them multiple facets of their identity, along with unique experiences and perspectives."

(NYSED, 2019)

# **Activity: The Cultural Iceberg in Practice**





- Recall a situation
- Consider the role of culture
- Reflect on the situation
- Apply a cultural lens

## Break

Pause Breathe Stretch



# **Culturally Responsive- Sustaining Education**

What comes to mind when you think of Culturally Responsive Education?





# **Culturally Responsive- Sustaining Education**

Culturally Responsive approaches center student, family, and community voices.

### **CULTURALLY**

The CR-5 framework helps educators create student-centered learning environments that: affirm racial, linguistic

### **RESPONSIVE-**

and cultural identities; prepare students for rigor and independent learning, develop students' abilities to connect

## SUSTAINING

across lines of difference; elevate historically marginalized voices; and empower students as agents of social change.

### **EDUCATION**

# **Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education**

CRSE requires educators to value differences in culture & identity and use them to facilitate learning.







assessment



### The CRSE Framework



- Individually Review Page 2 of the CRSE Framework Handout
- Consider Communication and Culture
- Select at least:
  - 1 strategy that you're doing/have done
  - 1 strategy you could do tomorrow
  - 1 strategy that you find challenging
- Reflection:
  - What strategies did you choose and why?
  - Where do you need support?



### Closing

- Revisit Your Take Home Question:
  - What systems and practices can you build to honor the communication styles and culture of the families and students you serve?
- What is one closing commitment you have?

## **Contact Us**

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