



NYC Needs Culturally Responsive Curriculum: Every Class, Every Grade, Every Day

Every day, most New York City students go to schools where the curriculum they are taught does not reflect their cultures, their histories, their experiences or their futures. Their texts include few heroes, scholars, authors or scientists who look like them, come from a similar backgrounds or speak their languages -- and even fewer who are the main story, not the sidebar. In a city where 85% of public school students are Black, Latinx or Asian, this perpetuates systemic racism. NYC students cannot thrive without a rigorous education that represents the true greatness of who they are, who their people are, and who the diverse populations of NYC are. NYC students deserve a Culturally Responsive Education (CRE).

Mayor de Blasio and the NYC Department of Education cannot end systemic racism in public schools and provide an equitable public education until students who are Black, Latinx, Asian, immigrant, LGBTQ, disabled and other identities are reflected and respected in their curriculum - in every class, every grade, every day. The city must:

- ◆ Ensure that all NYC schools are teaching curriculum that reflects the histories and backgrounds of NYC students, in every course, starting in the earliest grades. The curriculum should be hands-on, experiential, connected with students' lives and identities, and include native and indigenous cultures
- ◆ Require that all schools, pre-K to 12th grade, offer dual language programs or opportunities for students to learn more than one language, and recruit/train bilingual teachers to provide those classes
- ◆ Ensure that school and classroom libraries reflect diverse cultures, languages, religions and stories
- ◆ Develop culturally responsive curriculum with teams of teachers in each subject and grade level, in collaboration with families, students and community elders
- ◆ Hold community forums to hear from parents, youth, teachers and school leaders about their vision and ideas for culturally responsive curriculum and teaching
- ◆ Create an Office of Culturally Responsive Education that works across DOE offices to develop and implement culturally responsive curriculum, and integrate CRE throughout every level and every department of the school system
- ◆ Create systems for monitoring and accountability to ensure that culturally responsive curriculum, professional development and instruction is the highest quality and impacts student outcomes
- ◆ Mandate ongoing training and support for teachers and school leaders on the new curriculum, as well as on the diverse student populations that they teach, culturally responsive methods and restorative practices