

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Welcome

The WEEAC Virtual College is an online learning format designed for educators to participate in workshops that increase awareness in equity related topics. These courses will be self-paced and free of charge to all participants. The content aligns with the mission of the Equity Assistance Center grant funded by the United States Department of Education.

**All areas highlighted in GRAY are video and document links that can be activated by clicking on the active link. The videos work best in the Google Chrome Browser. If your computer is set to open in different browsers, you might have to copy and paste the url address into Chrome to view open the link.*

Course Overview

This course will help you to consider how to infuse family engagement strategies and frameworks that are culturally responsive and celebrate the knowledge that families bring into school communities. Participants will reflect on where their school or district is excelling in terms of family engagement, where they need to improve, and learn a common language to help do this work. Tools to support building a culturally responsive strategy will be provided, in addition to activities that can be done with fellow educators.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- To define culturally responsive family engagement frameworks
- To help educators understand the multiple definitions of education and how to center families in the learning process
- To prepare pre-service teachers with practices to build culturally responsive relationships and support success
- To promote family engagement practices that support the whole student and honor a family's wealth of knowledge

Western Educational Equity Assistance Center (WEEAC)

This content was prepared by Colleen Toomey, M.Ed., Principal Analyst with the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center. Watch the introduction video below to get to know Colleen Toomey.

Introduction Video

[Colleen Toomey – Click for introduction video](#)

Contact Information

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Communication Policy

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out via email or phone.

Section 1: Course Introduction

Let's get started by watching the videos below!

- [Culturally Responsive Family Engagement- Introduction Video](#)
- [Watch “The Danger of a Single Story” TED Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)
 - Reflection Exercise: What is going well in regard to parent and family engagement at your school and in your community? What strategies have you implemented in light of COVID-19?
- [Handout: Anti-Defamation League Self-Assessment – Click to activate](#)

Next Steps

When ready, continue to the next section.

Section 2: Bias and Common Language

Overview

This section will introduce you to some common language that is used when talking about equity and culturally responsive approaches.

- [Bias and Common Language Video – Click to activate](#)
 - [Resources: Bias Activity – Click to activate](#)
 - [Equity Definitions – Click to view](#)

Next Steps

When ready, continue to the next section.

Section 3: Case Law and Inequities

Overview

Section 3 will overview Supreme Court cases that have impacted family engagement laws in the United States, as well as share inequities that can exist in schools around national origin and languages spoken.

- [Case Law and Inequities Video – Click to activate](#)

Please review the following links regarding Case Law and Family Engagement policies:

- Plyler v. Doe: <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/access-education-rule-law>
- Lau v. Nichols: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ell/lau.html>
- Castaneda v. Pickard: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/castaneda-v-pickard-decision-impacts.html>
- Policy links: <https://www.aps.edu/about-us/policies-and-procedural-directives/procedural-directives/j.-students/discrimination-and-harassment-students>

Next Steps

When ready, continue to the next section.

Section 4: Culturally Responsive Practices for Working with Families

Overview

This section will focus on some of the research that exists around parent and family engagement and share culturally responsive approaches that will help confront stereotypes and prepare teachers for working with families from different ethnic and racial backgrounds.

- [Working with Families of Color Video – Click to activate](#)
- [HSF Scholar Parents of the Year: YouTube Video – Click to activate](#)
 - [Resources: \(PDF\) Families of color document – Click to view](#)

Next Steps

When ready, continue to the next section.

Section 5: Strategies for New and Pre-Service Teachers

Overview

This section is geared towards new and pre-service teachers and will provide strategy for culturally responsive engagement. If you are new to your school or district, or mentor teachers who are new, this section will assist in helping you consider ideas for involvement and communication with the families in your community.

- [Strategies for New and Pre-Service Teachers Video – Click to activate](#)

Next Steps

When ready, continue to the next item.

Section 6: Family Engagement Models

Overview

The final section of this course will overview family engagement models from Beyond the Bake Sale and the PTA. Additionally, there are tools shared to help you do assessments of your own family engagement programs from a culturally responsive lens.

- [Family Engagement Models Video – Click to activate](#)
 - [Racial Class & Cultural Differences – \(PDF\) Beyond the Bake Sale](#)
 - [Supporting Families as Advocates – \(PDF\) Beyond the Bake Sale](#)
 - [Resources - \(PDF\) working with interpreters' handout, family engagement tools for non-ELL teachers](#)

Course Completion

Professional Development Units

The suggested amount of Professional Development Units for this course is 4 contact hours. MSU Denver will issue a certificate of completion and it is at the discretion of state licensing agencies, school districts, or local educational agency to recognize completion for professional development credits.

[Certificate Requirements – Click to activate](#)

Please fill out the following registration form in order to receive a completion certificate

[Feedback survey – Click to activate](#)

Please fill out the following exit survey to provide feedback on this course.