

Tips/ideas on relating to students of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, especially students of a different background than their teacher.

- Be culturally self-aware to understand how their own culture shapes who they are and how they interact with students and their families.
- Demonstrate respect for different cultural backgrounds, customs, traditions, values, and communication styles.
- Connect learning to students' lives every day by contextualizing or connecting students' everyday experiences and integrating classroom learning with out-of-school experiences and knowledge of life inside the community.
- Acknowledge students' differences as well as their commonalities and respond to students' individual strengths and weaknesses, not pre-formed ideas about the groups to which they belong.
- Promote equity and mutual respect among students in a way that ensures fair treatment across all groups. Monitor behaviors that are rewarded to ensure they are not culture-bound.
- Encourage active learning to allow students to engage around their own knowledge and their own experiences in their society.
- Intellectual depth pedagogy opens the world for students to explore ideas in depth and showing connectedness between what is taught and everyday life.
- Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy impacts the curriculum, the teaching and the learning that happens in the classroom.
- Connect with people from racial and ethnic groups that are different from your own.
- Advocate for educational services, practices, and policies based on an understanding of students' cultures.



Source: Promoting Educators' Cultural Competence, NEA Policy Brief as adapted from Cultural Proficiency. A manual for School Leaders, Lindsey, et.al.