Culturally Relevant Instructional Practice
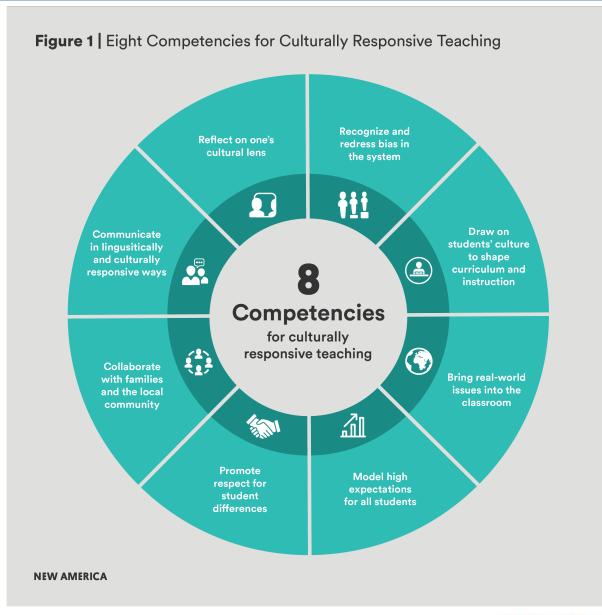
Instructional Practices for the Digisphere

The teacher who practices **culturally relevant teaching** understands that culture manifests **in a** variety of adaptations within how students prefer to learn. A **culturally responsive** teacher uses differentiated instruction to tailor learning to every aspect of a student's culture.

"All instruction is culturally responsive. The question is: To which culture is it currently oriented?"

—Gloria Ladson-Billings

Figure 1 | Eight Competencies for Culturally Responsive Teaching

8 Competencies for culturally responsive teaching

Reflect on one's cultural lens

Recognize and redress bias in the system

Draw on students' culture to shape curriculum and instruction

Bring real-world issues into the classroom

Model high expectations for all students

Promote respect for student differences

Collaborate with families and the local community

Communicate in lingusitically and culturally responsive ways

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Three Components of Culturally Relevant Teaching

Academic Achievement	Hold high and transparent academic expectations and meet students where they are. Think deeply about what you teach, why you are teaching it, and how you are going to teach it, based on who your students are as people and as learners.
Cultural Competence	Understand culture and its role in education, take responsibility for learning about your students' culture and community and look to your own identity, culture, biases, and privilege to critically assess and strengthen your instructional practice.
Sociopolitical Consciousness	Educate yourself and your students on the personal and sociopolitical issues that impact your students, their communities, and the world—and incorporate this into your teaching

The Digisphere and Culturally Responsive Teaching

Students are affirmed in their cultural connections

Teachers and their learning environments are personally inviting

Students are reinforced for academic development

Instructional changes are made to accommodate difference in learners

Classroom is managed with firm, consistent caring control

Interactions stress collectivity as well as individuality

Reflection

After our time together today:

- How has your understanding of culturally relevant instructional practice shifted?

- What might culturally relevant instructional practice look like in your learning environment?

Thank You

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