Out of the Shallows: Four Principles for Diving Deeper into Culturally Responsive Math Practices

Session Workbook

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Four Principles for Conscious Educators and Schools

These four principles help educators create positive and equitable school environments which: **embrace** the diversity of the students in their care; **empower** students to create positive change; **educate** students with critical and academically challenging curricula; and **include** historically marginalized voices, perspectives, and experiences to make learning more relevant, engaging, and meaningful for all students.

Embrace

Provide a welcoming and affirming environment.

Develop authentic and caring relationships with students and families.

Engage in the reduction and elimination of racist, discriminatory, or oppressive policies and practices.

Empower

Develop collaborative partnerships with parents, families, and the community.

Develop a sense of agency in students to make positive changes in their world and challenge the inequities they see.

Create an empowering school culture.

Educate

Utilize culturally relevant curricula and resources.

Create equitable learning environments where all students can learn using their strengths.

Teachers and students are co-collaborators in knowledge.

Foster high expectations for every student.

Include

Utilize teaching materials that provide windows and mirrors into the lives of diverse peoples.
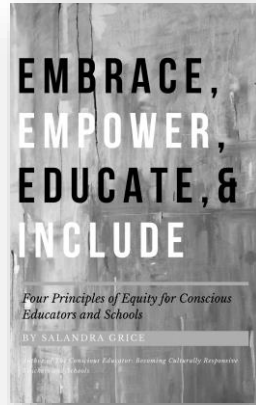
Include multiple perspectives in constructing knowledge and welcome the use of diverse learning styles.

Create inclusive school policies that allow students to stay connected to the school community.

Every Student, Every Day!

Four Principles for Conscious Educators and Schools

Use these four principles to guide your approaches to creating more positive and equitable learning environments.

EMBRACE,
EMPOWER,
EDUCATE, &
INCLUDE

Four Principles of Equity for Conscious Educators and Schools

BY SALANDRA GRICE

Embrace ALL Students

All students deserve to come into a learning environment that is welcoming and affirming of all of the identities they bring into the classroom. This kind of environment works to ensure that every race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, language, religion, and socioeconomic status is not only acknowledged as important but relevant to the learning process. Ultimately, this is an environment that embraces all students and makes all students feel safe. It is a foundational aspect in building a positive and caring school climate.

Empower ALL Students

An empowering school culture is a collaborative one! Building collaborative relationships between students, families, and their communities is a key element in helping students and families make the positive changes they hope to see in the world! This kind of education doesn't just teach to the test, but allows students to think critically and question their learning environments in order to remove any barriers that keep them from fair and equitable learning opportunities. An empowering school climate is the embodiment of positive change by helping students be the change they wish to see.

Educate ALL Students

The historical and current trends in underachievement for many marginalized students underscores the need for reform in the way schools educate diverse students.

A true education requires that all barriers that impede the equitable attainment of learning are identified and removed. High expectations and rigorous curriculum for EVERY student are essential in making sure this happens. Instruction should take into account how different students learn and encourage students to take intellectual risks in growing in their understanding of the world around them. A 21st century school doesn't just prepare students to succeed academically, but also to be able to function positively cross-culturally in a growing global economy and world.

Include ALL Students

An inclusive environment seeks to elevate historically marginalized and silenced voices, experiences, and perspectives. It welcomes diverse learning styles and seeks to dismantle the assumption of the superiority of dominant norms and beliefs in education. An inclusive environment values diversity and sees it as a strength. This kind of environment makes sure that all students see accurate, complete, and positive representations of not only themselves, but others in their learning environments.

-Salandra Grice, M.Ed.
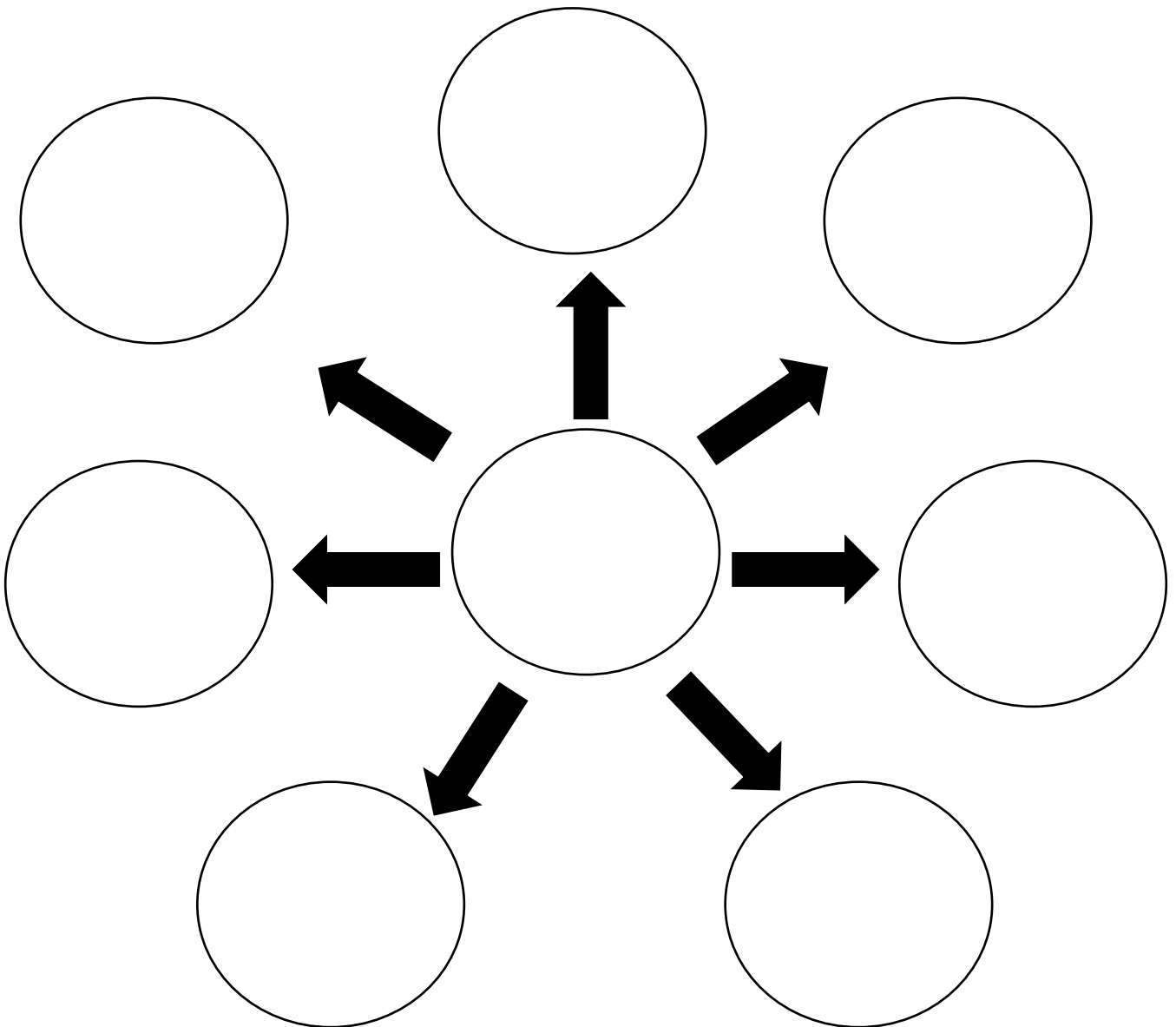Founder, Conscious Education Consulting, LLC.

Spheres of Influence

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