

DIMENSIONS OF EQUITY

As equity-focused educators, it is important to distinguish between three key areas in education: *multicultural education*, *social justice education*, and *culturally responsive teaching*. Too often the terms are used interchangeably when they are not. Below is a simple chart to help you understand the distinctions between them. A key point to remember, only CRT is focused on the cognitive development of under-served students. Multicultural and social justice education have more of a supporting role in culturally responsive teaching.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION	SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION	CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY
Focuses on celebrating diversity	Focuses on exposing the social political context that students experience	Focuses on improving the learning capacity of diverse students who have been marginalized educationally
Centers around creating positive social interactions across difference	Centers around raising students' consciousness about inequity in everyday social, environmental, economic, and political aspects of life	Centers around the affective & cognitive aspects of teaching and learning
Concerns itself with exposing privileged students to diverse literature, multiple perspectives, and inclusion in the curriculum as well as help students of color see themselves reflected.	Concerns itself with creating lenses to recognize and interrupt inequitable patterns and practices in society.	Concerns itself with building resilience and academic mindset by pushing back on dominant narratives about people of color.
Social Harmony	Critical Consciousness	Independent Learning