



English



Spanish ▾



¿Qué es la enseñanza culturalmente sensible?



Por Equipo de educadores de Understood

La enseñanza culturalmente receptiva es un enfoque de enseñanza basado en la investigación. Conecta las culturas, los idiomas y las experiencias de vida de los estudiantes con lo que aprenden en la escuela. Estas conexiones ayudan a los estudiantes a acceder a un plan de estudios riguroso y desarrollar habilidades académicas de alto nivel.

Nuestros cerebros están conectados para hacer conexiones. Es más fácil para nuestros cerebros aprender y almacenar información cuando tenemos un gancho para colgarla. Ese gancho es el conocimiento previo. Los estudiantes traen este conocimiento al salón de clases todos los días.



Understood se ha asociado con **Colorín Colorado**, el sitio web líder del país que ofrece recursos basados en investigaciones para educadores y familias de estudiantes del idioma inglés. →

Pero para los estudiantes de color, los estudiantes del idioma inglés (ELL, por sus siglas en inglés) y otras poblaciones de estudiantes desatendidos, esos recursos a menudo se pasan por alto. Cuando eso sucede, los educadores pierden la oportunidad de usarlos

para apoyar el aprendizaje. (Consulte [el trabajo reciente de Zaretta Hammond](#) para conocer la neurociencia detrás de esto).

La enseñanza culturalmente receptiva valora y refleja los activos de todos los estudiantes. Al hacerlo, eleva las expectativas académicas de todos los estudiantes. También envía el mensaje de que el multiculturalismo es un activo.

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Los beneficios de la enseñanza culturalmente sensible

Gloria Ladson-Billings introduced the concept of culturally responsive teaching. She saw it as a way to maximize students' academic achievement by integrating their cultural references in the classroom. Since then, [a deep field of research](#) has developed around culturally responsive teaching, including important work by leaders like Geneva Gay and Sonia Nieto.

More teachers are using culturally responsive teaching to best teach diverse student populations. They're also finding it's a powerful way to reach *all* students. Here's why:

1. It raises expectations for all students.

With culturally responsive teaching, teachers move away from a deficit mindset (focusing on what a student can't do). Instead, they identify students' assets and use them to create rigorous, student-centered instruction. This is especially important for students from underserved groups whose skills are often underestimated.

2. It helps schools better meet students' needs.

Underserved students may face implicit bias because of their race, culture, or language. (Implicit bias refers to the unconscious attitudes or stereotypes we all hold.) As a result, these students are often overrepresented in special education. Other times, their needs go undetected. They're also often underrepresented in gifted education. By using an assets mindset, schools are more likely to better identify and serve all students.

3. It builds cultural competence.

An inclusive curriculum helps teachers and students understand different perspectives, appreciate others' strengths, and build empathy. Culturally responsive teaching can also help teachers reflect on how their own identity and experiences impact their attitudes and teaching practices.

4. It helps students feel valued and empowered.

When students see themselves represented in the curriculum, they feel like they belong. They're more likely to develop the trust it takes to build a relationship with a teacher.

A sense of belonging makes learning easier and builds students' self-confidence. Learn more about [the brain science behind this](#).

Cómo trabajan juntos la enseñanza culturalmente receptiva, el UDL y el SEL

Culturally responsive teaching and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) work together to create equitable learning for all students. Both approaches include the use of students' backgrounds and high expectations in the classroom. And both use instruction that engages students with their needs in mind.

Culturally responsive teaching also supports social-emotional learning (SEL). It helps teachers get to know their students. When planning SEL lessons, teachers can use that knowledge to make sure their lessons value students. Pairing SEL with culturally responsive teaching also helps students navigate contexts both inside and outside of school.

Learn more about [UDL](#) and [SEL](#).

Para educadores: Enseñanza culturalmente sensible en el aula

To put culturally responsive teaching into practice, follow these ideas:

- Identify students' assets.

- Create a welcoming classroom environment and develop authentic, caring relationships.
- Examine the curriculum to increase rigor and relevance.
- Explore resources to deepen your own understanding.

Explore [a guide to using culturally responsive teaching in the classroom](#), which includes distance learning strategies.

Para educadores: Cómo colaborar con las familias

Family partnerships are an essential part of culturally responsive teaching. Think about how to make your family outreach more culturally responsive by asking:

- What strengths and interests can you identify among your students' families?
- Is the school sending messages that all families are welcome at the school? Are there barriers to engaging families that you want to address?
- How can you include families, regardless of language, in school activities?

Learn more about [why family partnerships are important](#) to student outcomes. And get tips for [engaging with families of English language learners](#).

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