



## What is the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework? Why now for New York State?

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has come to understand that the results we seek for all our children can never be fully achieved without incorporating an equity and inclusion lens in every facet of our work (see also New York State's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan). This understanding has created an urgency around promoting equitable opportunities that help all children thrive. New York State understands that the responsibility of education is not only to prevent the exclusion of historically silenced, erased, and disenfranchised groups, but also to assist in the promotion and perpetuation of cultures, languages and ways of knowing that have been devalued, suppressed, and

imperiled by years of educational, social, political, economic neglect and other forms of oppression.

The Culturally Responsive-Sustaining (CR-S) framework is intended to help education stakeholders create student-centered learning environments that affirm cultural identities; foster positive academic outcomes; develop students' abilities to connect across lines of difference; elevate historically marginalized voices; empower students as agents of social change; and contribute to individual student engagement, learning, growth, and achievement through the cultivation of critical thinking. The framework was designed to support education stakeholders in developing and

### What is culture?

The New York State Education Department understands culture as the multiple components of one's identity, including but not limited to: race, economic background, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, and ability. Culture far transcends practices such as cuisines, art, music, and celebrations to also include ways of thinking, values, and forms of expression. These ways and forms are in constant flux, renegotiation, and evolution. Schools then become a meeting point for cultures, containing children and adults who bring with them multiple facets of their identity, along with unique experiences and perspectives.



Access the full [Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#).

implementing policies that educate all students effectively and equitably, as well as provide appropriate supports and services to promote positive student outcomes.

The CR-S Framework marks our journey forward and begins the evolution toward leveraging difference as an asset. The framework is grounded in four principles:

- \* Welcoming and affirming environment
- \* High expectations and rigorous instruction
- \* Inclusive curriculum and assessment
- \* Ongoing professional learning

Each principle is illustrated by a set of features rooted in elements of quality education that illustrate how CR-S might look in practice across a range of domains, from the State Education Department to the classroom. The framework represents an opportunity for stakeholders to continue to work together and plan for the unique needs of their communities. The New York State Education Department recognizes much of this work is already happening across the state and looks forward to an even deeper understanding of culturally responsive-sustaining education in New York State schools, districts, and communities.

## Who is involved in implementing the CR-S Education Framework?

**Everyone!** To make the CR-S Framework a reality, the Department, under the Board of Regents, has created a framework for CR-S practices. The framework is intended to be used by a variety of education stakeholders, including but not limited to students, teachers, school and district leaders, families and community members, higher education faculty and administrators, and Education Department policymakers.



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Learn more about the [Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework](#).

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