

## Social Justice

*"There can be no keener revelation of society's soul than the way in which it treats it's children."*  
-Nelson Mandela

### Social Justice in Education:

Social justice is about distributing resources fairly and treating all students equitably so that they feel safe and secure—physically and psychologically (Alvarez, 2019).

Social justice focuses on raising awareness of the social and political issues that unfortunately impact student education and experience. It centers around raising students' consciousness about inequality within educational, social, environmental, economic, and political aspects of life. Social justice also concerns itself with creating lenses to recognize and interrupt inequitable patterns in society. Military families tend to be exposed to different cultures, customs, languages, religions, traditions, and ethnicities around the world. Parents, caregivers, educators, and other professionals can choose to model inclusive choices and behaviors, kindness, and an optimistic curiosity towards people who look or speak differently.



(Bolovtsova, 2020)



(Nothing Ahead, 2020)

Marilyn Cochran-Smith states, *"Social justice-oriented approaches in education refer to standpoints and scholarly traditions that actively address the dynamics of oppression, privilege, and isms, recognizing that society is the product of historically rooted, institutionally sanctioned stratification along socially constructed group lines that include race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and ability. Working for social justice in education means guiding students in critical self-reflection of their socialization into this matrix of unequal relationships and its implications, analysis of the mechanisms of oppression, and the ability to challenge these hierarchies"* (Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2009).

In addition to social justice, educators can consider two more strategies to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion among their diverse military students: multicultural education and/or culturally responsive teaching. [The Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain Webinar](#) provides context for some of the information below (Hammond, 2014).

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### Multicultural Education:

Multicultural education focuses on celebrating diversity and creating positive and social interactions across differences. It also exposes students to diverse literature, multiple perspectives, and inclusion. The American University School of Education defines multicultural education (2020):

*"Multicultural education values different student cultures and prepares students to thrive in a diverse world. At its core, multicultural education fosters equality, justice, and equity, and it establishes the reality of philosophical ideals in classroom environments. Multicultural education is what schools implement to establish equitable educational opportunities for all their students. It is also an ongoing process of helping students succeed in their academic and personal lives."*

### Understanding the difference between racial equity and justice:

Engaging and encouraging meaningful conversations within schools and classrooms about race, racial equity, and racial justice can help set the stage for a lifetime of respect, empathy, strength, pride, and understanding for the generations to come. Race Forward (2021) clarifies the distinctions between racial equity and racial justice. *"Racial equity is the process for moving towards the vision of racial justice. Racial equity seeks measurable milestones and outcomes that can be achieved on the road to racial justice."* It is important to understand racial equity is necessary, but not sufficient, for racial justice to occur. For clarity, see the definitions below:

**Racial equity** is a process of eliminating racial disparities for people of color through the intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change.

**Racial justice** is the transformation of society to eliminate racial hierarchies and advance collective liberation, where Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have the dignity, resources, power, and self-determination to fully thrive.

### Culturally Responsive Practices:

Culturally responsive teaching practices center culturally responsive strategies around the cognitive aspects of teaching and learning pedagogy. Culturally aware and inclusive teaching practices are meant to promote engagement, enrichment, and achievement of all students by embracing a wealth of diversity, identifying and nurturing students' cultural strengths, and validating students' lived experiences and their place in the world (Samuels, 2018; Pijanowski & Brady, 2021; Zygmunt, 2016). There is a focus on improving the learning capacity of diverse students and a concern to build resilience and an academic mindset by pushing back dominant narratives about people of color.



(Cottonbro, 2021)



(Grabowska, 2020)

The COVID-19 Pandemic and nationwide unrest have impacted the US education system in a myriad of ways, specifically by revealing decades of systematic disparities. Culturally responsive teachers can:

1. Promote engagement and achievement by connecting curriculum to students' daily lives, cultural backgrounds, and concerns.
2. Deploy rigorous daily activities to help students make connections and sense of the world around them.
3. Encourage students to become agents for positive change.
4. Call attention to educational injustice and bolster learning opportunities for all students.

*"Education and equity are inseparable. One cannot exist without the other."*  
-Angela Powers, Kansas Co-Chair of the NEA Social Justice Taskforce

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For Parents & Professionals	For Parents of Young Children	For School
 <p><a href="#">How to Be a Social Justice Parent and Raise Compassionate Kids</a> Article by Harvard</p>	 <p><a href="#">Spanish Is My Superpower</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Multicultural Education: Definition &amp; Approaches</a> Video by Study.com</p>
 <p><a href="#">Racial &amp; Social Justice &amp; Education</a> Article by NEA</p>	 <p><a href="#">Talking About Race: The Lees</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">How to Provide a Multicultural Education</a> Article by Baylor University</p>
 <p><a href="#">Opportunity for All</a> Resource by 4-H</p>	 <p><a href="#">Talking About Race: The Preston Foster Ogletrees</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Multicultural Education: Goals and Dimensions</a> Article by University of Washington</p>
 <p><a href="#">The Power of Educational Justice Movements</a> Article by Learning Policy Institute</p>	 <p><a href="#">Talking About Race: The Maranas</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Teaching Kids to Celebrate Our Differences</a> Video by PBS</p>
 <p><a href="#">Racial Justice Resources</a> Article by MCEC</p>	 <p><a href="#">Talking About Race: The Christofferson Family</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">What is Social Justice?</a> Video by Study.com</p>
 <p><a href="#">What is Multicultural Education?</a> Article by American University School of Education</p>	 <p><a href="#">Talking About Race: The Clutes</a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Multiculturalism: Effective Instruction</a> Resource by PBS</p>
 <p><a href="#">Definitions of Multicultural Education</a> Article by NAME</p>	 <p><a href="#">I Am Me</a> Interactive Activity by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Why Social Justice in Schools Matter</a> Article by NEA</p>
 <p><a href="#">Turnaround for Children</a> Resource by Turnaround for Children</p>	 <p><a href="#">Let's Talk About Race</a> Interactive Activity by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Equity Messaging Guidance Tool</a> Resource by the National Equity Project</p>
 <p><a href="#">SoLD Alliance</a> Resource by Science of Learning &amp; Development Alliance</p>	 <p><a href="#">Outside, Inside</a> Interactive Storybook by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">What is Social Justice in Education?</a> Article by Human Rights Career</p>
 <p><a href="#">Equity &amp; Education: Dialogue, Leadership, &amp; Action</a> Resource by Aspen Institute</p>	 <p><a href="#">Look at Me, Look at You!</a> Printable by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#">Building Equitable Learning Environments</a> Resource by BELE</p>

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 <p><a href="#"><u>ACE</u></a> Resource by American Council on Education</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Proud of Your Eyes</u></a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>A Guide for Culturally Responsive Practice</u></a> Guide by Digital Promise</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>Race Conversations in the Classroom</u></a> Resource by Future for Learning</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Teaching Your Children to Be Upstanders</u></a> Article by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Culturally Responsive Teaching</u></a> Article by New America</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>Ed Trust Diversity Map</u></a> Resource by The Education Trust</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Raising an Upstander</u></a> Article by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Culturally Responsive Teaching</u></a> Video by Zaretta Hammond</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>Social Emotional and Academic Development S.E.A.D.</u></a> Resource by The Education Trust</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>For White Parents: The 4 S's of Antiracist Parenting</u></a> Article by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>A Walk in My Shoes</u></a> Video by Kansas State University</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>S.E.A.D. Through an Equity Lens</u></a> Resource by The Education Trust</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Ji-Young's New Song</u></a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>About a Walk in My Shoes</u></a> Video by Kansas State University</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racialized Violence</u></a> Resource by Center for Racial Justice in Education</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>We Are Upstanders</u></a> Video by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Equity &amp; Education: Dialogue, Leadership, &amp; Action</u></a> Resource by Aspen Institute</p>
 <p><a href="#"><u>Teacher Toolkits and Resources</u></a> Resource by Resilient Educator</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Choices Against Racism for Military Families</u></a> Article by Sesame Street</p>	 <p><a href="#"><u>Supporting Marginalized Students</u></a> Article by National Center for Learning Disabilities</p>
		 <p><a href="#"><u>Racial Justice in Education</u></a> Resource by NEA Ed Justice</p>  <p><a href="#"><u>Equity Framework for All Students</u></a> Resource by Quantum 10</p>

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