Subject-Specific, Culturally Responsive Strategies

*Strategies for Culturally Responsive* ***Mathematics***

* Set up authentic, relevant reasons for learning math
* Use a range of representations
* Be clear, explicit, and direct with math terminology
* Activate and validate the knowledge and experience students bring to school with them
* Share local Native mathematical systems, e.g., for counting or record keeping
* Help students think about and solve meaningful math problems
* Support students’ understanding of how mathematics is related to familiar contexts
* Extend notions of expertise beyond the academic arena
* Invite community members to speak in class on how they use math

*Strategies for Culturally Responsive* ***Science***

* Start with an ecological perspective, focused on how species within an ecosystem depend and impact one another
* Incorporate the Native perspective that people are a part *of* nature rather than apart *from* nature
* Teach science in a way that is relevant to students’ communities and the socio-scientific challenges they face
* Set up science activities where students can contribute to the pursuit of possible solutions to community problems
* Avoid curricular materials that are against spiritual or moral beliefs and/or give students a choice in using alternate materials, e.g., instead of animal dissection.

*Strategies for Culturally Responsive* ***Social Studies***

* Teach from multicultural perspective to include, for example, authors and worldviews from different cultures
* Assure historical accuracy of events related to Native peoples
* Allow time for Native American history and culture
* Teach Native American contributions
* Teach about tribal governments
* Focus on both the past and the present
* Teach about general history and culture related to Native peoples *and* the attributes of specific, local tribal nations, including their history and contemporary context

*Strategies for Culturally Responsive* ***English Language Arts***

* Include literary themes written by and about Native Americans
* Provide background information about particular tribes in the reading
* Provide learning experiences where students feel a connection to the content and have something to say about it
* Share a rationale for choosing a particular text format with students or engage them in a conversation about it
* Explicitly teach how to engage with school-based texts
* Map students’ everyday practices with texts onto school-based literary skills and modes of reasoning

*Strategies for Culturally Responsive* ***Native Language***

* Develop instructional activities that require the use of the target language
* Teach Native language in the context of traditional cultural activities
* Provide contexts where students learn appropriate uses of the language, how to use it with different community members, and gain an understanding of the significance of cultural practices
* Invite elders to come to the classroom to tell stories and talk with students
* Take students to visit with elders in their own setting