SERC Library: Topical Literature Search

Culturally Responsive Engagement with Families of Children with Disabilities - Examining the Intersection of Race, Culture, Language and Disability

December 2017

This resource guide, which is one of four on this topic, includes current research and other articles pulled from literature and the Library’s educational database service for schools, programs, service providers and families to enhance understanding of multiple perspectives and the development of collaborative partnerships between education professionals and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to better support the involvement and participation of parents in the education of their children with disabilities. It should be noted that it does not represent the full scope of resources and information available on this topic nor serve as an endorsement of any particular resource.

Introductory Article:

The Intersection of Race, Culture, Language and Disability


To date, few researchers have sought to examine the effect of issues of race, culture, language, and disability, let alone to look specifically at the intersection of these issues, as it relates to special education identification, special education service delivery, and students of color’s access to an equitable education.

This article, therefore, seeks to help urban educators and researchers understand:

- Why the intersection of race, culture, language, and disability is an urban education issue;
- How issues of race, culture, language, and disability affect students’ and their families’ quest for an equitable education;
- How to advocate for and provide services to racially, culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse students and their families, and
- The implications of the intersection of race, culture, and disability for urban education practice, research, and policy.

To learn more:

For access to additional educational resources available through the SERC Library from its electronic journal database service and topical research LibGuides as well as in-person from the various instructional, assessment and other collections, please consider becoming a Library member. Membership is free and you can join online by following the link provided below.

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List of Sources:


Links to Information
Addressing Special Education Inequity Through Systemic Change: Contributions of Ecologically Based Organizational Consultation

Complex Relationships Between Multicultural Education and Special Education: An African American Perspective

English Learners With Learning Disabilities: What is the Current State?

Equity and Advocacy Expectations of Culturally Diverse Families’ Participation in Special Education

Hispanic Representation in Special Education: Patterns and Implications

Intersectionality as a Framework for Transformative Research in Special Education

The Impact of Cultural Diversity on Special Education Provision in the United States

Theorizing Racial Inequity in Special Education: Applying Structural Inequality Theory to Disproportionality

Using an Ever-English Learner Framework to Examine Disproportionality in Special Education

Wading Through Quicksand: Making Sense of Minority Disproportionality in Identification of Emotional Disturbance