

Research Supports Nā Honua Maui Ola

What is culture-based education?

Culture-based education (CBE) is the grounding of instruction and student learning in the values, norms, knowledge, beliefs, practices, experiences, and language that are the foundation of a(n indigenous) culture (Kana'iaupuni 2007). Hawaiian CBE emphasizes culturally relevant content, contexts, and assessments, which draw heavily upon family, community, and language in order to promote learning and growth.

What does the latest research say about culture-based education?

Studies suggest culture-based education makes a positive difference in students' lives. Recent findings from a large scale, community-based study in Hawai'i indicate positive relationships between CBE strategies and student outcomes, with teachers' use of CBE positively linked with students' socio-emotional development, and both factors associated with higher math and reading scores (see Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education; www.ksbe.edu/spi/cbe).

Why is culture-based education important?

Culture-based education is receiving increasing attention from educators, researchers, and parents seeking to redefine success for today's learners. Scholars argue that mainstream schooling in the US fails to address the needs of non-western and minority students (Sue 2004; Cornelius 1999). The resulting achievement gap between indigenous students and their peers has led a growing number of educators to develop culturally responsive approaches to teaching and learning (Castagno and Brayboy 2008).

Who benefits from culture-based education?

Everybody benefits from culture-based education. The Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education (HCIE) study shows that CBE strategies can work for all students –regardless of ethnicity. This may be due to the fact that there is a high correlation between Hawaiian CBE strategies and other research-based 'best practices' (e.g., contextualization). Through Hawaiian CBE, the needs of diverse students can be met through cooperative, hands-on, project- and place-based, experiential learning that is culturally relevant and responsive to the community.

How can I integrate culture-based education into my teaching?

Nā Honua Maui Ola (NHMO) is a great place to start developing CBE approaches. The Hawaiian Cultural Pathways for Healthy and Responsive Learning Environments provide a framework for teaching *through* Hawaiian culture. The pathways can be integrated one at a time or they can be combined for greater effect. NHMO resources align well with instruments used in the HCIE study.

Castagno, A. & B. Brayboy. 2008. Culturally Responsive Schooling for Indigenous Youth: A Review of the Literature. *Review of Educational Research* 78:4 (941-993).

Cornelius, Carol. 1999. *Iroquois Corn in a Culture-Based Curriculum: A Framework for Respectfully Teaching About Cultures*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Kana'iaupuni, Shawn. 2007. A Brief Overview of Culture-Based Education. Honolulu: Kamehameha Schools Research & Evaluation Division.

Sue, Derald. 2004. Whiteness and Ethnocentric Monoculturalism: Making the "Invisible" Visible. *American Psychologist* 59(761-769).

