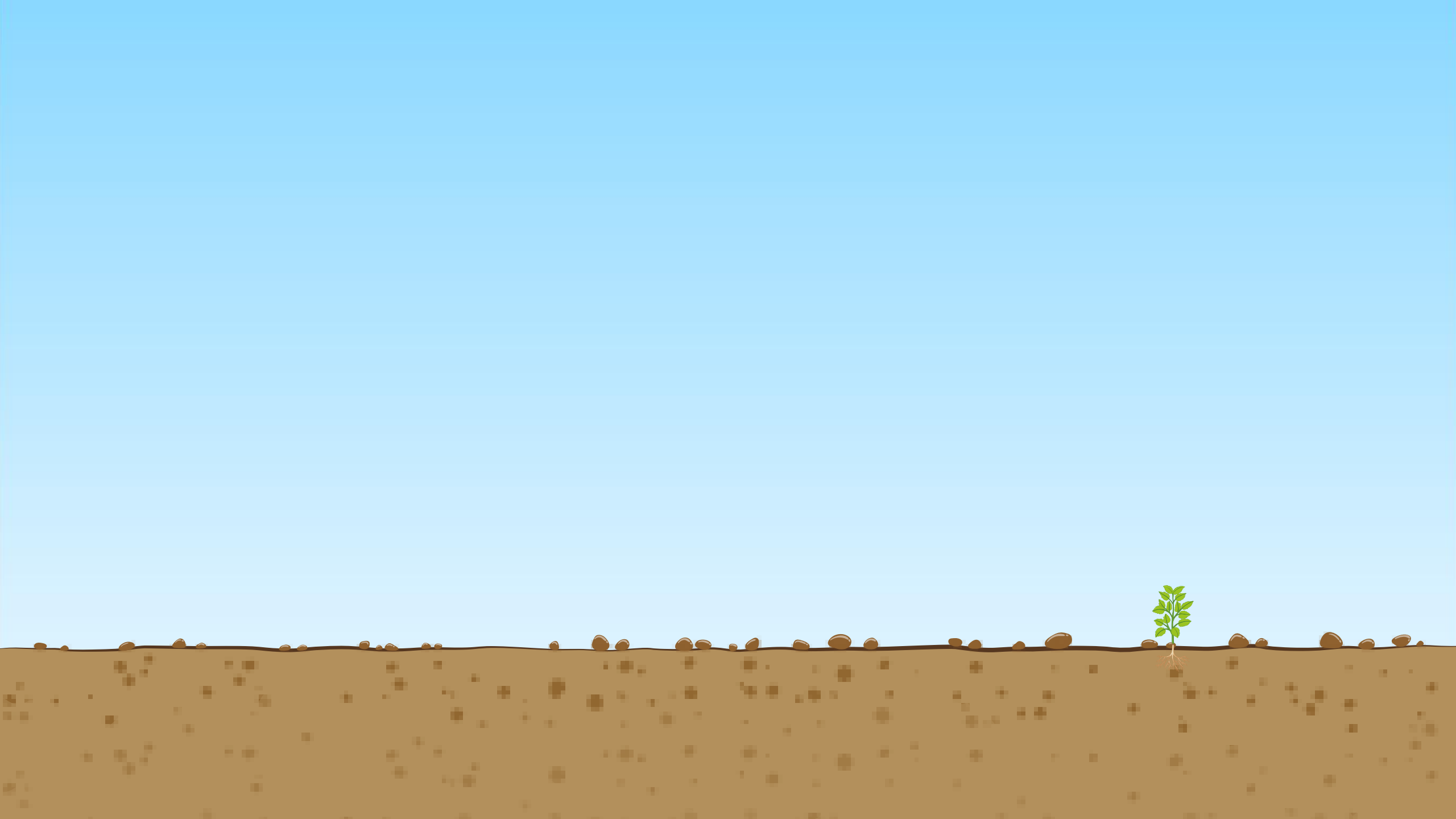


A collage of diverse hands reaching towards a central white banner. The hands vary in skin tone, age, and appearance, symbolizing multicultural unity. The banner is white with a subtle texture and contains the title text in various colors and bold fonts. The background is a solid, muted pinkish-red color.

Fostering Positive Cultural Identity in International School Students

**Constance
Darshea Collins**



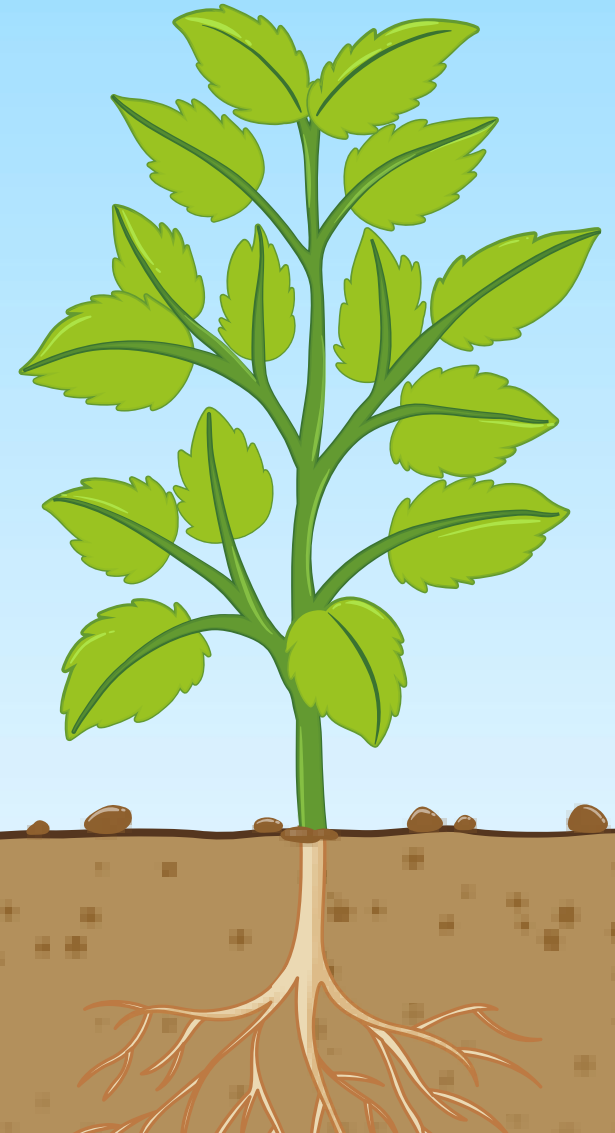
Grounding Ourselves

We are already engaged in this work, whether consciously or unconsciously

We are only scratching the surface

There is some tension in making this work intentional

How do we learn to educate in ways that we ourselves were not taught?



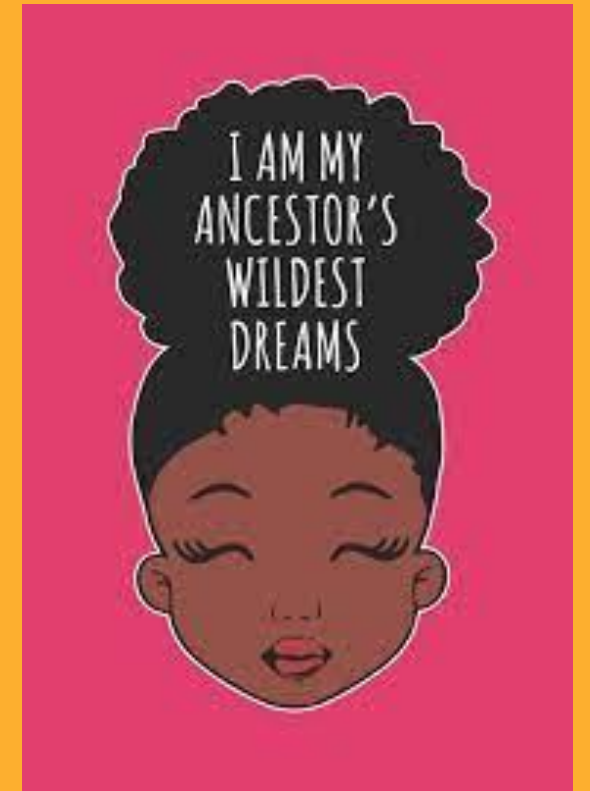
A Note About Language

Context Matters!

Positionality Matters!



WHAT IS POSITIVE CULTURE IDENTITY?



Awareness → Attitude → Perceptions → Beliefs → Socialization

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Academic
Significance

Social
Significance

Protective
Factor

Global
Citizenship
& Service



IN WHAT WAYS DO SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS CURRENTLY WORK TO
REINFORCE DOMINANT NARRATIVES AROUND
RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE?

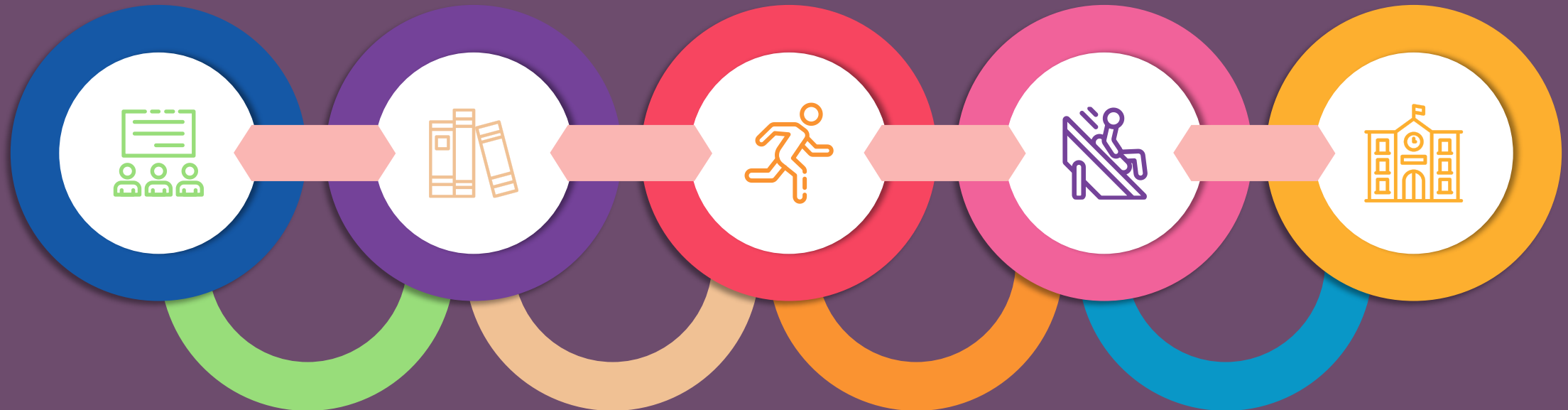
*In
Classrooms*

*In The
Curriculum*

*In Co-Curricular
Activities*

*In Informal
Spaces*

*In School
Policies*



Say It Loud!



- What is not said can communicate as much as what is said.
- **Colormute**: “the anxious ways in which adults in schools simultaneously engage with issues of race while also avoiding it explicitly”

Reframing Misconceptions



01

Only those who are non-white have a cultural identity

02

This work is separate from academics or belongs in humanities (Can our work be rigorous if it's not culturally responsive?)

03

Students much reach a certain age to have discussions about race

04

By nature of being a culturally diverse school, we are automatically fostering positive cultural identity

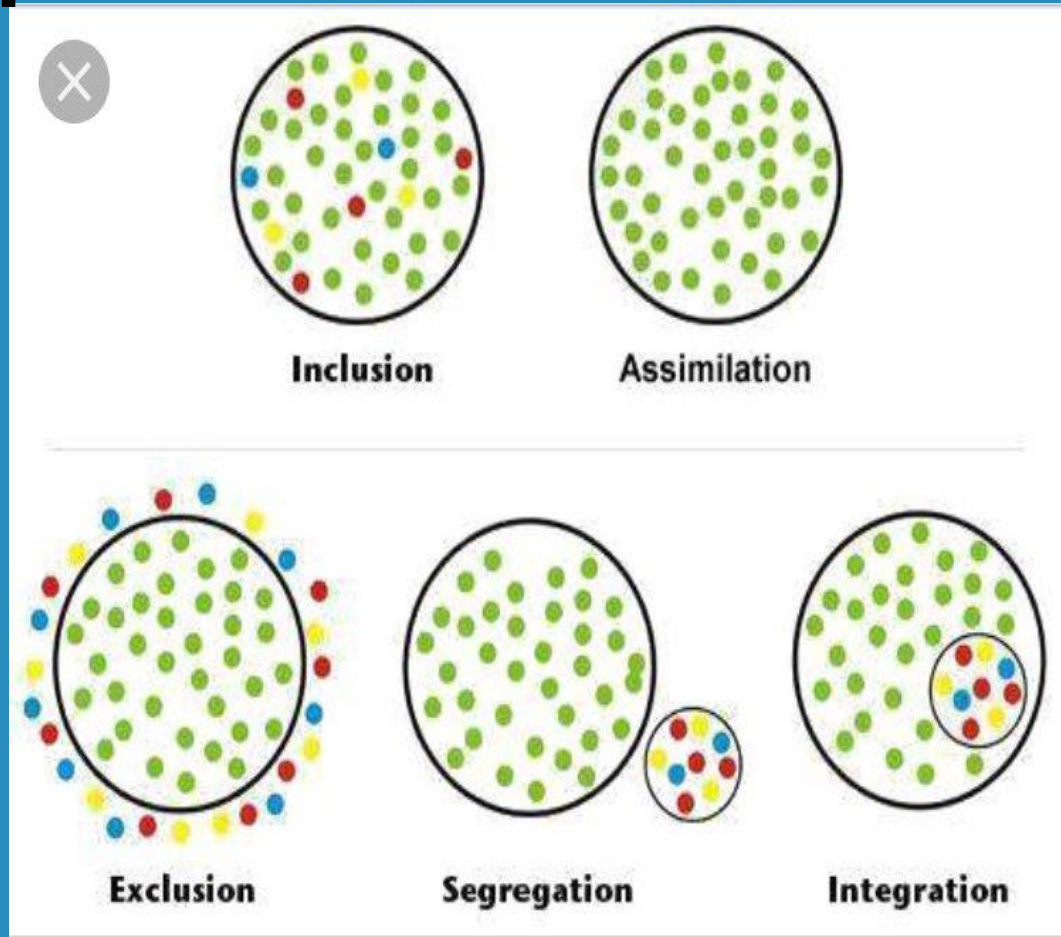
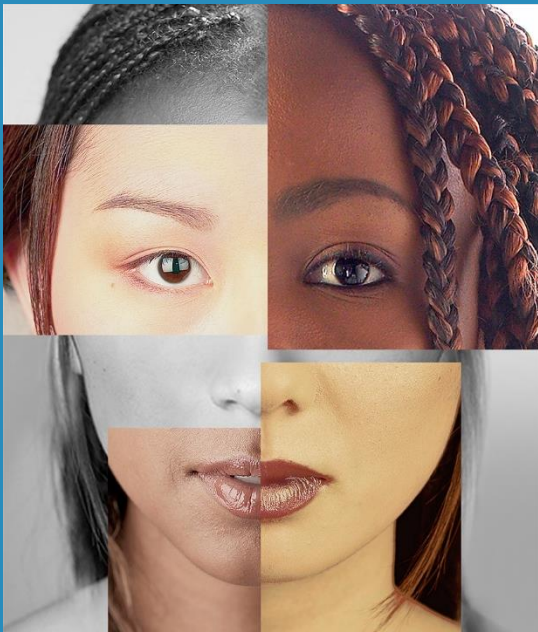
05

Socioeconomic status is positively correlated with positive cultural identity

Assimilation versus Inclusivity

MULTICULTURALISM

Everyone feels safe to exist as they are and feel a sense of belonging



ASSIMILATION

Everyone need to adopt the dominant culture and way of being in order to feel accepted





Strategies

- *Affirming language*
- *Adopting explicit ideals of inclusivity*
- *Transforming physical spaces*
- *Redirecting our roles from instructor to facilitator and learner. (The students are experts in their own cultures)*
- *Model cultural awareness amongst staff*
- *Continue learning and building your own tool kit*

REINFORCEMENTS

Avoid color-blind ideologies (“I don’t see race” “We are all one race, the human race” “Talking about it makes the problem worse”)

Celebrate differences, by doing so we validate the real experiences of our students and colleagues

Try and try again to pronounce students’ names correctly





[Additional resources at: www.thesunkissededucator.com](http://www.thesunkissededucator.com)