

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Multicultural education is required to be taught to all students at all programmatic levels, pre- K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. McDowell County Schools will develop and implement a program for multicultural education that fosters an attitude of understanding and acceptance of individuals from a variety of cultural, ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds.

Multicultural Education will be taught at each programmatic level with an emphasis on prevention and zero tolerance for racial, sexual, religious/ethnic harassment or violence. Multicultural Education will be taught in an integrated approach within various content areas, as well as part of the Comprehensive School Counseling Program and the standards and objectives outlined in West Virginia Board of Education Policy 4373, *Expected Behaviors in Safe and Supportive Schools*.

The McDowell County Board of Education's multicultural education philosophy promotes a comprehensive approach for presenting a global understanding of the world. Global competence is the knowledge, skills, and dispositions which focus on students' understanding and effective participation in their world, as well as issues of global significance that encourage multicultural understanding. Multicultural education programs must be developed and implemented to foster an attitude of understanding and acceptance of individuals from a variety of cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds as per W. Va. Code §18-5-15a.

The educational community will promote democratic values and beliefs that affirm the experiences and histories of diverse groups and exemplify social justice, equality and the human dignity of each student.

Goals of the program include, but are not limited to the following:

- To use examples and content from a variety of ethnicities, races, religions and cultures to illustrate key concepts, generalizations, and issues within their subject area;
- To help students to understand, investigate, and determine how the biases, frames of reference and perspectives within a discipline influence the ways in which knowledge is constructed within it;
- To reduce prejudice through the use lessons and activities to help students to develop positive attitudes toward differences and reduce prejudice; and
- To empower a school culture that creates an environment that enables students from diverse racial, ethnic, gender and SES groups to experience equality.

McDowell County Schools will annually provide multicultural training for employees and students on the County's harassment policy and reporting procedures and investigations of complaints. Other professional development support may be provided, as needed, to support multicultural education goals and objectives.

References:

WV Board of Education Policy 2510
WV Board of Education Policy 4373
WV Board of Education Policy 2315
W. Va. Code §18-5-15a.

Adopted: September 2, 2014