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CULTURALLY COMPETENT ADMINISTRATORS

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Culturally Competent Administrators

Synopsis:

In a rapidly diverse changing society where over 42% of our nation's students are students of color, it is urgent that school administrators are skilled and trained to work effectively with culturally diverse students and their families.

Culturally Competent Administrators

The students' population in our nation is changing drastically. According to (NEA, 2008), in 2005, students of color made up 42 percent of our nation's students and many of our teachers are struggling in attempt to serve our students effectively. This signifies a cultural gap which is most likely causing failures in students' academic performance. Many of our teachers find it challenging to teach successfully to students who are not of their ethnicity. If our teachers are going to address the needs of our students, they must become culturally competent practitioners to understand diversity in our schools. This actually means intensive pre-service training workshops. "Cultural competence is the ability to successfully teach students who come from cultures other than their own (NEA, 2008)." In order for teachers to become culturally competent, it is urgent that school administrators understand student diversity. School administrators should be responsible for an effective school community that support diversity (Paz, 2008). The schools' climate should nurture the background of all students. This Qualitative study focuses on the roles of school administrators in understanding diverse cultures. The proposed question is: What are the roles of Administrators in assuring cultural competent schools? The result of this study embraced: Administrators need to understand their own personalities in relationship to cultural diversity; the curriculum must include academic achievement for all students; the school board should be committed to the success of all students and the administrators must have effective training and skills in cultural diversity in order to implement professional development for the entire staff.

Keywords: administrators, principals, diversity, cultural competent