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CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

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Connecting students with cultural sensitivity

Synopsis: Since it is impossible to recruit enough teachers to match the demographics of our diverse students' population, developing teacher cultural competency is essential to students' achievement.

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Abstract

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According to research, preparing teachers to work successfully with diverse students is an issue plaguing our nation. The differences between the demographics of American students and their teachers are rapidly increasing. Focusing the attention on the cultural experiences of students is essential to their achievement in comparison to ethnic background of teachers. The National Center for Education Statistics reported that minority students make up 40 percent of our nation's students, and taught by 80 percent of Euro- American teachers (Walker, 2011). "As the nation's demographics shift, the sight of a white teacher leaning over the desk of a brown or black student is likely become more and more common. In order to be effective, teachers will have to learn about the cultural experiences of their students, while using the pedagogy (Walker, 2011)." This study examined and explored various theories, and best teaching practices for preparing cultural diverse teachers. The study is grounded in the work of (Gay, 2000) *Culturally responsive teaching: Theory research and practice*. The question posed: Can cultural sensitivity, in the classroom, improves students' connection with teachers? The data from this qualitative study showed a significant increase of students' connection with teachers that practiced cultural sensitivity.