

EDUCATION THAT IS MULTICULTURAL

December 2011

<p>What are the goals of Education That Is Multicultural in Maryland?</p>	<p>Education That Is Multicultural is a process which involves schools and communities working to fulfill the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare students to live, learn, interact, work, and participate productively in our multicultural democratic society; • To promote student achievement through the use of resources and classroom practices that reflect the diversity and commonalities of students, cultural groups, and communities; • To provide pre-kindergarten through 12th grade curriculum and instruction that enable students to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the contributions of cultural groups in Maryland and the around the world; and • To foster respect for individuals regardless of diversity factors such as region, socio-economic status, race, disability, national origin, and gender.
<p>What are the responsibilities of local school systems in implementing Education That Is Multicultural?</p>	<p>Each local school system in Maryland is required to develop five-year plans and annual updates to address multicultural issues related to curriculum, instruction and staff development. Plans reflect the responsibilities outlined in the Education That Is Multicultural Regulation amended by the State Board of Education in 2005 (COMAR 13A.04.05). Local school systems also submit annual assessments of progress to the Maryland State Department of Education, Equity Assurance and Compliance Office.</p>
<p>What types of programs are implemented in local school systems?</p>	<p>Examples of school system programs include expanding curriculum guidelines to reflect a greater depth of information about the contributions of diverse groups, offering teacher training courses on cultural competence, multicultural education, and student achievement, establishing resource centers for use by educators, and providing educational activities to promote understanding and reduce prejudice.</p>
<p>What resources and services does the Maryland State Department of Education provide?</p>	<p>The Maryland State Department of Education coordinates an Education That Is Multicultural and Achievement (ETMA) Network and maintains a reference collection of multicultural books and audio visual resources.</p> <p>In fulfillment of the State regulations, the Maryland State Department of Education reports progress every three years to the State Board of Education, the Governor, and the State legislature, and promote an inclusive multicultural focus in state assessments, publications, and school improvement initiatives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Over)</p>

Where can I get more information about Education That Is Multicultural?

Contact the Maryland State Department of Education, Equity Assurance and Compliance Office at 410-767-0433 or call your local school system central office for the name of the individual serving on the ETMA Network. For relevant documents, visit the MSDE website and link to “Programs,” then “Multicultural Education.”

The ETMA Network, comprised of representatives of MSDE and each local school system, provides on-going assistance for developing and implementing five-year plans and annual updates. The Network, which meets monthly at MSDE, has developed a three-credit state professional development course, *Cultural Proficiency and Accelerating Student Achievement for the 21st Century, A Practical Guide for Accelerating Student Achievement Across Cultures*, and other supporting documents.