



Future Proud Michigan Educator Unit 1: Healthy Learning Communities

Unit Overview

Building a healthy learning community is vital to the success of any classroom. The emotional and social safety of class members becomes paramount when issues of culture, identity, educational equity, and learning to teach are at the heart of a course. Students need to feel a sense of belonging, a feeling that they are known, and that they know and can trust their classmates. They need time and support to build these relationships. They need clear expectations for interactions, behavior, procedures, and academic work, and they need to know what happens when they do not meet these expectations. This unit draws on the experiences of students as members of diverse learning communities and is informed by readings, structured observations, and discussions. Although this unit occurs in the earliest days of the term to provide the foundation on which the school learning community is built, elements of this work may be revisited throughout the course as needed for the health of the community or as students experience other settings or new roles in their clinical placements.

Essential Questions

1. How do students and teachers create a learning community that supports the success of individuals and the group?
2. How do students and teachers build an environment in which all learners feel welcome and valued?
3. What are the essential elements of a healthy learning community and how do they inform teaching practice?
4. How are relationships and routines indicators of a classroom culture?
5. How do students and teachers create a learning community that supports the success of individuals and the group?
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7. How do students and teachers build an environment in which all learners feel welcome and valued?

8. What are the essential elements of a healthy learning community and how do they inform teaching practice?
9. How are relationships and routines indicators of a classroom culture?

Unit Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Identify the essential elements of classroom culture, community and environment, including relationships, expectations, rituals, and routines.
- Explain how healthy learning communities support academic learning and social/emotional development
- Analyze common responses to student behavior, their relationship to teacher beliefs, and their anticipated outcomes
- Develop a repertoire of strategies to build relationships, promote cooperation, enhance communication, and solve problems collaboratively
- Articulate how educators consciously create a positive classroom environment for all learners, including: planning, teaching, developing, monitoring and refining
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of school professionals that support healthy learning communities

Lesson Sequence

1. **Identity and Culture:** Students will define what shapes identity, apply the elements to their own identities, and relate how the characteristics of identity affect relationships in school.
2. **Learning and Growing in a Community:** Students will be able to identify communities they belong to and interpret the messages about teaching and learning inside of those communities.
3. **Elements of a Healthy Learning Community:** Students will be able to identify the roles that adults play in creating healthy learning communities by analyzing the elements of those communities.
4. **Classroom Environment and Culture:** Students will be able to make a connection between a classroom environment, a positive classroom culture, and teacher practices.
5. **Observing Core Teaching Practices:** Students will be able to identify core teaching practices that affirm individuals and build positive academic identities.
6. **Classroom Routines and Relationships:** Students will be able to analyze classroom rituals, routines, and responses to student behavior to articulate the teachers' conscious efforts for a positive classroom environment.
7. **Reflective Practice:** Students will be able to apply reflective practice to express their own beliefs about teaching and learning in a healthy learning environment.