Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) Professional Development

**JUNE - AUGUST 2014**

- Over 300 teachers participated in this newly designed professional development component.

- CRT professional development draws upon the research of Geneva Gay, Gloria Ladson-Billings, and other scholars who have identified critical characteristics of CRT.
  - High expectations and rigorous instruction, with scaffolded support
  - An asset-based approach to instruction (*Difference is not deficit.*)
  - Caring, respectful teacher-student relationships
  - Meaningful, purposeful learning tasks

- CRT professional development emphasizes practical application, using videos of instruction in classrooms of Pinellas County teachers.

- Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
  - “I value the discussion both at our tables and whole group.”
  - “Great insight...communal cultural systems vs. the individuality of academic culture.”
  - “Great article! We need to know our students, as far as strengths.”
  - “This was a great reflective opportunity for me.”
  - “Makes me definitely want to strive to make my classroom a better community.”
  - “Would like more concrete examples of what culturally responsive teaching looks like in the classroom.”
  - “I would like to see examples of multiculturalizing learning and matching instruction with students.”
  - “Wish we had more time.”

**AUGUST 2014 – JUNE 2015**

- CRT PD will be provided monthly at five elementary schools (Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo, and Melrose).
  - Work with teachers to plan and incorporate effective structures and strategies

- Consult with Dr. Elizabeth Bondy (University of Florida)

- Expand CRT professional development videos to include middle school examples

- Monitor student progress

- Document and evaluate effectiveness of CRT professional development for participating teachers