



Strong & Positive School Culture



► Discussion Questions

1. How do we ensure all adults at our school are responsible for student outcomes?
2. Identify advantages and challenges to co-teaching.
3. Culture is a set of shared customs, values, and beliefs. What cultures are represented at our school? What role does culture play in our school's practices? How do we share our culture with newcomers?
4. How do our curriculum and educational practices represent the variety of cultures in our school community? Do these practices also represent "disability culture?"
5. What does it mean to be culturally responsive?



► Group Activity

In a small group, talk about strategies you use in your role to address the diverse backgrounds of our students.



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► Discussion Questions

1. Share two noteworthy moments related to “strong and positive school culture” from the video.
2. At mark 0:48, we see examples of different adults in the building serving all students. How can all adults at our school be involved in meeting students’ academic and social needs? Consider the following roles: teacher, related service provider, office staff and custodian.
3. Describe the co-teaching that is happening in the video at mark 0:55. What does co-teaching look like at our school? How does it compare to the video?

► Group Activity

Plan ways to communicate with parents, teachers, support staff, community members, and district leadership about SWIFT transformational practices. Examples include newsletters, website link, handout, or event.

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

A Strong and Positive School Culture creates an atmosphere in which everyone feels like they belong. The culture of the school is characterized by a happy, caring community that values everyone’s needs. Students with disabilities are educated in the same integrated educational settings as other students their age. Every adult in the school plays a meaningful and critical role in serving all students. Specialized educators teach alongside their general education peers. Club organizers ensure that all students have access to extracurricular activities. School and district committees include families, and choose curriculum that reinforce the contributions of a variety of cultures. School staff, families and students collaborate to realize the school’s shared values and beliefs, bringing to life the phrase “all means all.” Strong and Positive School Culture is about all adults working together to serve all kids.



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After You Watch

► Discussion Questions

1. Examine our school mission or vision statement. Does it match the culture of our school? How could it be changed to reflect our school's shared values and beliefs?
2. How does our school's master calendar provide opportunities for co-teaching and collaboration? What changes could we make to better facilitate co-teaching and collaboration among educators?
3. What supports could be provided to ensure all students are able to participate in extracurricular activities (e.g., transportation, paraeducator support, behavior support plans, etc.)?



► Group Activity

As a group, plan an event that could be used to strengthen the culture of our school. Think about ways we could recognize the positive contributions of the members of our school community.