Developing Inclusive Learners and Citizens

This infographic highlights the scenarios, activities, and resources contained in Developing Inclusive Learners and Citizens, an activity guide developed by the 2019 ALA Emerging Leaders team sponsored by AASL. Visit www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/tools/toolkits.

“"The library card is a passport to wonders and miracles, glimpses into other lives, religions, experiences, the hopes and dreams and strivings of ALL human beings, and it is this passport that opens our eyes and hearts to the world beyond our front doors, that is one of our best hopes against tyranny, xenophobia, hopelessness, despair, anarchy, and ignorance."  

~Libba Bray

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

Flexible thinking leads to innovation, creativity, and diplomacy.  In school, however, students settle into a rigid, "one right answer" mindset. New perspectives challenge assumptions about right and wrong.  

Books are sometimes WINDOWS, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange.  These windows are also SLIDING GLASS DOORS, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created and recreated by the author.  When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a MIRROR.  

What is Read Woke? It's a feeling.  A form of education.  A call to action, and our right as lifelong learners.  Arming yourself with the knowledge to protect your rights.  Learning about others, so you treat all with respect and dignity.  

~Rudine Sims Bishop, 1990

SAFE SPACES

A school library operates as a safe space where individual curiosity, creativity, and an orientation toward learning are encouraged and supported and where students can explore diverse topics, even controversial topics, in privacy and safety.  

What type of environment are you creating in your school library?  

- Do your library rules include respect for all visitors and are those rules posted where everyone can see them?  
- Do you display books and hang posters with diverse faces and families?  
- Are your library accommodations safe and accessible for all patrons, including learners with disabilities?  

70% of school librarians tackle the topics of cyberbullying, harassment, and stalking behavior at school.  

DIVERSE COLLECTIONS

Of the 3320 children's books published in the US in 2016, the number of books about minority groups more than doubled in the last three years.  

2018: 28.5%  
2015: 14.8%  

- African Americans  
- American Indians  
- Asian American  
- Pacific Islanders  
- Latinx  

68% of libraries purchased books with more diverse characters in the last year.  

81% of librarians say it is VERY IMPORTANT to have diverse points of view in the library collection.  

Less than half of LGBTQ high school and 20% of LGBTQ middle school learners report having access to LGBTQ-related library materials at school.  

INSTRUCTIONAL COLLABORATION

Administrators who make the best use of their school library and its rich collection set expectations for collaboration among teachers and librarians.  

1.6% fewer learners tested at a below basic reading level when they have a FULL-TIME SCHOOL LIBRARIAN.  

The difference is even greater for:  
- Black students (5.5%)  
- Latino students (5.2%)  
- Students with disabilities (4.6%)  

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

26,000 local chapters of PTAs, and thousands of PTOs, serve more than 17M students in 50 states—a valuable and immediate partner with school libraries.  

81% of parents say a major reason SCHOOL LIBRARIES ARE IMPORTANT is that libraries provide their children with information and resources not available at home.  

American Association of School Librarians  
TRANSFORMING LEARNING  