

Cultural Impacts and the Learning Environment

This list is designed to be used by the classroom teacher as a guide to help support ELL and culturally diverse students who are experiencing difficulty in learning. It should be used by the teacher before referral to the SAT and then, as needed, throughout the RTI process. Teachers must take into account an individual student's traits as well as school- and teaching-related issues.

Have I	Yes	No
• interviewed the student's parents and/or community leader from the same cultural background as the student to determine how the student's culture may be affecting his/her behavior, learning, and communication?		
• noticed this student having difficulty establishing or maintaining relationships with individuals of his/her own culture/ethnicity/true peer* group?		
• considered that low academic performance may influence communication, learning, and behavior in a negative way?		
• provided culturally responsive classroom instruction and intervention strategies that include differentiated instruction which draw on the student's own cultural and ethnic background as a resource?		
• monitored the student's progress using differentiated strategies that take into account the student's culture/ethnicity/true peers*?		

* **True peers:** *students who share the same culture, primary/home language, and similar schooling background and life experiences.*