

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEARNING

What are the goals of social justice learning?

- Students developing the critical thinking, collaboration and self-reflection skills required to foster a better society.
- Students recognizing patterns of inequality, bigotry or discrimination and exploring possible solutions to the problems they have identified.
- Students empowered to voice their concern and question unjust situations in their lives or in the lives of those around them.



Teaching social justice within the context of the whole-child and honoring their evolving understanding means engaging students in social justice projects with an awareness of their developmental stage.

Step One

Classrooms must first be a safe, encouraging place where students can speak about their experiences and beliefs.

Create a community of conscience where students' voices, opinions and ideas are valued and respected by the adults and peers.

Students understanding that while disagreements may occur, they must work together to increase their knowledge and understanding.

Students gaining information that includes multiple perspectives, diverse voices and cultures.

Early practice in the skills of awareness, compassion and altruism.

Step Two

Classrooms that enable thoughtful discussions with a variety of opinions and perspectives.

Student conversations about real-world issues that affect students' everyday lives.

When questions about differences arise, teachers openly confront them, allowing students a safe place to grapple with stereotypes and harsh realities.

Step Three

Once students are able to recognize and discuss social injustice, teachers can help them act upon the issues they see.

Students gaining a sense of agency, that they can make a difference in the world and have a duty to try.

Students gaining the basic tools to contribute to our democracy: rational argument, protest, petitions, media literacy and critical examination.