The Seven Principles for Culturally Responsive Teaching
– Gary R. Howard
School reform in the 21st Century is about quality teaching across differences

- Race
- Religion
- Family Background
- Gender
- Culture
- Sexual Orientation
- Learning Styles
Cultural Competence: The will and ability to form authentic and effective relationships (makes connections) across our differences.

Culturally Responsive Teaching: Teaching and leading in such a way that more of our students, across more of their differences, achieve at a higher level and engage at a deeper level. This should happen more often, without students giving up who they are. This is NOT ASSIMILATION. Also, does not need to occur with every kid all the time.
Seven Principles for Building Learning Community

1. Students are affirmed in their cultural connections
   “kids get it that we get them”

2. Teachers are personally and culturally inviting
   “kids get it that we like them”

3. Learning environment is culturally and personally inviting
   “School looks like me....diversity lives here and is honored”

- Connect with kids where school historically has not worked (invitational work)
- If we only focus on instruction we miss kids who don’t ever want to come in the door
4. Students are reinforced for academic development
   “catching kids being smart”

5. Adjust instructional strategies to accommodate kids
   “sing harmony to a kids song”

6. Classroom is managed with firm, consistent, and loving controls
   “respect begins with the teacher”

7. Interactions stress collectivity as well as individuality
   “mixing it up in the classroom”