

Mission Statement.

Gage County School District No. 34 is committed to preparing students to appreciate and support the diversity that is part of our heritage and to function in a pluralistic society.

Definition.

Multicultural education is a reform movement to change the total educational environment so those students from diverse racial and ethnic groups will experience equal educational opportunities in schools. A major assumption of multicultural education is that some students, because of their particular racial, ethnic and cultural characteristics have a better chance to succeed in educational institutions as they are currently structured than students who belong to other groups or have different cultural characteristics. (Banks, 1993)

The Gage County School District No. 34's plan for multicultural education focuses on the culture, conditions, and history of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and European American.

Gage County School District No. 34 is committed to fulfilling the requirements of Nebraska Statutes §79-719 through §79-722 within the area of public education. The board of education recognizes that multicultural education is a shared responsibility. Therefore, the school district invites individuals, families, and religious/civic/community leaders to join the school district in examining our hearts, attitudes, and actions to promote positive growth in our multicultural community.

It shall be the intent of this school district to prepare students to appreciate and support the diversity that is part of our heritage and to function in a pluralistic society.

The school district will utilize resources of curriculum, instruction, in-service, counseling, and guidance to reflect the racial, ethnic, language, and cultural heritage of both the historical and modern-day United States of America by observing the following objectives:

- I. To select materials and methods that will eliminate bias and stereotype in our schools.
- II. To conduct inservice programs for our staff that will help them to understand a multicultural approach and to reflect it in their teaching and administrative duties.
- III. To encourage all students to grow in self-esteem and develop their academic and human potential.
- IV. To guard against grouping of students that reflects racial, ethnic, language, or cultural bias.

The following activities/projects will occur to insure accomplishment of these objectives:

- I. Teachers will place on file multicultural activities, which were implemented during the 1997-98 school year. Those activities listed during the 1997-98 school year shall serve as the minimum multicultural education activities for current and future programs. The program will be evaluated every five years, using 1997-98 as the base year.
- II. At the beginning of the school year teachers will be given a list of those multicultural activities implemented during the preceding school year. This list will be used as a reference for activities for the coming school year. Administrators and teachers will strive to upgrade multicultural activities each year.
- III. Teachers will be given supplemental multicultural material, as it becomes available throughout the school year that can be implemented within their disciplines.
- IV. The administration will assume the responsibility of routing professional information concerning multicultural activities to the teaching staff.
- V. The administration will assure the multicultural activities will continue to be a curriculum developed program which shall include included (whenever possible) in textbook selection.
- VI. The administration, along with the approval of the board of education, will evaluate the success of the program

for the past several years and will be responsible for setting goals for future years.

Legal Reference: §79-719 Multicultural Education,
 Through Program, Incorporation
Into §79-723 Curriculum,
Report.