

Educational Justice Curriculum Overview



Overall Objective:

1. Introduce a group of 60 participants to BRIDGES concept of educational justice.
2. Students will identify the purpose of public education in America.
3. Participants will identify specific, desired improvements in the school districts that service the youths in their community.
4. Participants will develop an action plan to effect change on four issues that significantly affect the quality of education they receive in their community.

Guiding Questions:

1. According to BRIDGES, what is educational justice?
2. Is education a right?
3. Why are students experts on school?
4. How can schools in Shelby County better serve the youth they educate?
5. What can youth do to be advocates for educational justice?

Key Concepts:

- **Education** is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
- **Justice** is the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness.
- **Civil Rights** are the nonpolitical rights of a citizen; *especially*: the rights of personal liberty guaranteed to United States citizens by the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution and by acts of Congress.
- **Expert** means having, involving, or displaying special skills or knowledge derived from training or experience.

CORE STANDARDS Alignment:

The BRIDGES Connect Curriculum has been aligned with the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCRAS). All learning activities within the Connect Curriculum support and assume shared responsibility for attaining the standards. While it is necessary for youth and educational leaders to devote significant time and effort in various educational settings to attain these standards, participation in the BRIDGES Connect Curriculum will enhance students' knowledge and skills necessary for success in this endeavor. In addition, since the Connect Curriculum is inextricably linked to social justice and action issues embedded within race, ecology, economics and education, the learning activities intentionally promote the following College and Career Dimensions and youth's ability to:

- *Comprehend and Critique Significant Human/Social Issues
- *Build Strong Content Knowledge
- *Gain Self-Awareness
- *Demonstrate Independence as well as Collaboration
- *Respond to Particular Audience, Task, Purpose & Discipline
- *Value Evidence as Basis for Analysis, Opinion, Implications, Action
- *Use Technology and other Digital Media Strategically and Capably

In addition, participation in the Bridges Connect Curriculum offers a unique and critical opportunity for urban youth to develop, make a commitment to and demonstrate community leadership through academic pursuit, advocacy, and activism.