



Socio-Cultural Impacts on Learning

1. Student Information

Name (optional)
Date of Birth Age Grade
School

2. Respondent Information

Name
Date Position
Agency/School.....

Instructions for Use: Using your knowledge of this student, (obtained through observations, record review and formal/informal parent contacts), discuss as a team the following Socio-Cultural Factors that may be influencing this student's performance in school. The team may choose to use this **Discussion Guide** to identify specific factors that may have a high probability of impacting this student's school performance.

These factors should be addressed in planning any/all of the following for this student: (1) communication with the student/family; (2) design of pre-referral interventions and instructional strategies; (3) determination whether to propose a special education assessment; (4) design of the special education assessment, including use of evaluation tools; (5) interpretation of assessment results; (6) determination regarding the presence of a disability and eligibility for special education services; and (7) design and implementation of an IEP.

A. Racial/Cultural Factors

- 1 If the student is racially different from the majority of peers/staff in this school, how might that impact his learning?
- 2 How might the student's racial/cultural identity impact his/her level of interaction with peers or staff of other racial/cultural backgrounds or his/her relationships with peers and staff of other racial/cultural backgrounds?
- 3 Might this student's school performance reflect a cultural priority of support for family/group over individual effort?
- 4 Has this student recently, and/or frequently, moved from another town or within the city or state? If yes, has the inconsistency of the student's education program impacted his/her academic performance?
- 5 If this student and his/her family have recently moved from another area, might this student have retained behavior or survival strategies that are not adapted to the current environment?

B. Communication Factors

- 6 Is there a language, dialect, or communication style other than standard English spoken by family members in the student's home, which might impact this student's success in school?
- 7 Does this student have a primary language/dialect other than English that may be impacting learning in school?

C. Socioeconomic Factors

- 8 Are the student's basic needs for food, shelter and/or clothing impacting school performance?
- 9 Might the education level of the parents/caregivers impact the student's ability and/or expectations of learning?

D. Resiliency Factors

- 10 Describe the student's special strengths, talents, or interests that could impact school performance.
- 11 Describe the student's involvement in school and/or community activities that could impact school performance.

E. Other Factors

- 12 Has there been a recent change in this student's primary caregiver that is impacting this student's ability to learn?
- 13 If the student has recently experienced a crisis or trauma, how has that impacted his/her ability to learn?
- 14 Does this student express/display a sense of stress, anxiety, isolation, alienation, or other mental health concern that may be impacting school performance?
- 15 Is this student involved in other school or community activities that impact his/her ability to perform in school?