

Ten Factors Essential to Success in Urban Classrooms

1. Do not teach less content to poor, urban children, but understand their brilliance and teach more.
2. Whatever methodology or instructional program is used, demand critical thinking.
3. Assure that all children gain access to “basic skills,” the conventions and strategies that are essential to success in American education.
4. Challenge racist societal views of the competence and worthiness of the children and their families, and help them to do the same.
5. Recognize and build on strengths.
6. Use familiar metaphors and experiences from the children’s world to connect what they already know to school knowledge.
7. Create a sense of family and caring in the service of academic achievement.
8. Monitor and assess needs and then address them with a wealth of diverse strategies.
9. Honor and respect the children’s home and ancestral culture(s).
10. Foster a sense of children’s connection to community – to something greater than themselves.