

## FOCUS AREA: LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

### Objectives :

Effective library collections should nurture the resolve of BIYOC, help them reconcile their different identities, and imagine their place in the world.

### Characteristics :

Effective library collections are:

- *Meaningful:* They help BIYOC understand themselves and their world.
- *Reflective:* They positively and accurately represent BIYOC; all students can see themselves in the collection.
- *Validating:* They affirm the value of diversity.
- *Relevant:* They relate to the lived experiences of BIYOC.
- *Enabling:* They empower youth to make positive change in their own lives and communities.
- *Inclusive:* They reflect the broadest possible spectrum of diversity in terms of content and authorship.

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<p><b>Meaningful:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ BIYOC youth have input into collection development decisions</li> <li>➤ Culturally sustaining, award-winning multicultural literature is purchased</li> </ul> <p><b>Reflective:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Members of the community and BIYOC are asked to help check resources for authenticity</li> <li>➤ Books, videos, library newsletters, program flyers, etc. are available in diverse students' home languages</li> <li>➤ Resources offer multiple cultural perspectives and viewpoints</li> </ul>		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Resources represent the diversity within racial and cultural groups</li> <li>➤ Resources include both “mirror” and “window” texts</li> </ul> <p><b>Validating:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Newspapers and magazines in the students’ home languages are available</li> <li>➤ Culturally relevant materials are included in book displays, on recommended reading lists, and in booktalks</li> <li>➤ The website contains links to culturally relevant resources and information in the home languages of BIYOC</li> <li>➤ Resources have been evaluated based on language, pictures and stereotypes</li> </ul> <p><b>Relevant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Culturally diverse community resources are utilized (e.g. civic leaders, business leaders, artists, writers, members of police/fire department, etc.)</li> <li>➤ Technologies such as laptops, iPads, eReaders, and wi-fi hotspots are available for checkout</li> </ul> <p><b>Enabling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Resources are provided that allow students to express themselves— e.g. blogging platforms, video and audio recording tools / software, word processing tools</li> <li>➤ Librarians mediate texts with students, helping them relate texts to their lives and interests</li> </ul>		

Examples	Observations/Wonderings	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Collection includes resources that support youth activism and civic engagement</li> </ul> <p><b>Inclusive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Collection development policy includes criteria for evaluating and selecting culturally relevant and enabling texts</li> <li>➤ Collection includes resources that are written by members of marginalized communities (#OwnVoices)</li> </ul>		