



The *IS* and *ISN'T* of Multicultural Education

By Paul C. Gorski (gorski@earthlink.net)
for **EdChange** the *Multicultural Pavilion*
<http://www.edchange.org/multicultural>
<http://www.mhhe.com/multicultural>

Multicultural Education *IS NOT*

About everyone agreeing and getting along

Only applicable to Language Arts and History

A process of watering down good curriculum

Only for students of color

Related only to curriculum reform

Achieved through a series of small changes

Modeled through cultural bulletin boards, assemblies, or fairs

The responsibility of culture-based student clubs or organizations

One in-service workshop

Multicultural Education *IS*

About naming and eliminating the many inequities in education

A comprehensive approach for making education more inclusive, active, and engaging in all subject areas

A process for presenting all students with a more comprehensive, accurate understanding of the world

For *ALL* students

Related to all aspects of education including pedagogy, counseling, administration, assessment and evaluation, research, etc.

Achieved through the reexamination and transformation of all aspects of education

Modeled through self-critique, self-examination, and cross-cultural relationship-building

The responsibility of teachers, administrators, and school staff

An on-going commitment