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WE BULLY

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Assessing Your Assumptions

An Exercise for Educators

As educators we are taught to treat all our students equitably. That is very difficult to do. Our unconscious mind brings assumptions and judgments to our thoughts unbeknownst to us. In this exercise, you will be asked to think of two students you interact with on a daily basis – one positively and one negatively.

Directions: Take the time to individually answer the questions on the *Assessing Your Assumptions Worksheet* as honestly as you can about each student. As you answer the questions, consider the benefits of growing and/or improving your relationship with the student—academically, socially, environmentally, etc.

After working individually, divide yourselves into small groups and answer the discussion questions below:

1. Are there patterns you see with your level of comfort or discomfort when interacting with students?
2. How could these patterns impact your effectiveness as an educator?
3. What impact might these behaviors have on your school climate?
4. What specific actions can you do to help eliminate your judgements and assumptions?