

# Critical Practices for Social Justice Education

## Professional Learning Cohorts

2023 - 2024 Syllabus

**Overview statement:** As participants in Critical Practices Professional Learning Cohorts, educators engage with the Learning for Justice *Critical Practices for Social Justice Education* (CP) guide and the four pillars of Curriculum & Instruction, Culture & Climate, Family & Community Engagement, and Leadership. CP Cohorts provide educators, free of charge, the chance to deeply engage with CP, collaborate with LFJ staff and 25 other cohort members across the country and gain insights and feedback on implementation. After two semesters of learning in community, including seven synchronous sessions via Zoom, educators will have an opportunity to showcase their work.

**There will be two cohorts offered during the 2023-2024 school year:**

- One elementary (PK-5) cohort (on Wednesdays)
- One secondary (6-12) cohort (on Tuesdays)

**Overarching objectives:**

1. Educators will understand how their identity impacts their approach to social justice education.
2. Educators will learn to navigate and implement the *Critical Practices for Social Justice Education* guide and other resources available through the Learning for Justice website.
3. Educators will showcase their learning by creating an implementation project that applies one or more *Critical Practices* strategies in their contexts.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

1. In order to be considered for a CP Cohort, applicants must be an educator that will use the CP guide with either PK-5 or 6-12 students (for example, through a classroom, higher education, non-profit or museum setting, etc.).
2. Educators across the nation are encouraged to apply, but there will be preference given to those teaching in Southern Poverty Law Center states: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

**Cohort Requirements:**

1. Synchronous sessions: Educators must commit to participating in 7 synchronous cohort sessions via Zoom from October 2023 - February 2024. All sessions will be held from 5:00 - 7:00 pm Central / 6:00 - 8:00 pm Eastern. Synchronous sessions will be led by LFJ staff and LFJ Trainer Fellows, alumni of past LFJ cohorts who have been selected for their content knowledge and facilitation skills.
2. Showcase: Educators will showcase their learnings on Wednesday, March 6th via Zoom.
3. Asynchronous Work: Educators must be willing to dedicate time outside of synchronous sessions to exploring and implementing CP resources and working on their showcase project (expect about 1-1.5 hours a week).
4. Post cohort: Educators will use what they learned during the CP Cohort in their contexts, such as creating new lesson plans, professional development, or documenting student reflections/learnings within a calendar year.

**Showcase Information:**

- Prior to the showcase, educators will have an opportunity to collaborate with their Cohort trainers, Learning for Justice staff and other cohort members to help craft their projects.
- The showcase will be held on Wednesday, March 6th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm Central / 6:00 - 8:00 pm Eastern on Zoom.
- This showcase will present educators with a unique opportunity to apply what they learned, such as designing a community project or a learning plan or professional development for other educators, that highlights participants' implementation of one or more strategies from *Critical Practices for Social Justice Education*.

**Certificate of Completion:**

- Participants will receive a signed certificate of completion that shows their hours of engagement (approximately 26 hours) *upon completion and presentation of their showcase project*.

**Google Classroom:**

- Each cohort will use a Google Classroom to communicate and collaborate with one another and their Trainer Fellow.
- Each Google Classroom functions as the centralized location for all logistical and programmatic information, including calendar of Cohort times and office hours, slides and resources from previous sessions, showcase artifacts and upcoming professional development opportunities.

**Office Hours: (Optional)**

- LFJ staff and Trainer Fellows will host virtual office hours every other week from the first cohort meeting through the final showcase.
- During office hours, Trainer Fellows will be there to help with processing, implementation, troubleshooting, creation of project artifacts or resources and answer any questions from cohort participants in a one-on-one setting.

***\*See next page for an overview of the synchronous sessions, including dates, times and objectives for each.***

## Synchronous Session Overview

All sessions are 5:00 - 7:00 PM Central Time / 6:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern Time via Zoom

Dates* (see below)	Session Title	Session Objectives
<b>Semester 1 (October - December 2023)</b>		
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, October 10</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, October 11</b>	Welcome and Opening!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will begin to build community with their Professional Learning Cohort.</li> <li>Educators will understand the connection between identity and social justice.</li> <li>Educators will begin to explore the <i>Critical Practices for Social Justice Education</i> guide.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, October 24</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, October 25</b>	Critical Practices 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will define social justice education</li> <li>Educators will learn how to navigate the <i>Critical Practices for Social Justice Education</i> guide and resources.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, November 14</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, November 15</b>	Culture and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will articulate the connection between identity and culture and climate</li> <li>Educators will develop tools to build more inclusive cultures and climates.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, November 28</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, November 27</b>	Curriculum and Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will reflect on the relationship between their identity, curriculum and instruction, and social justice education.</li> <li>Educators will develop a more critical approach to curriculum and instruction.</li> </ul>
<b>Week of December 11</b>	Group / Individual Check-ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will reflect on their learnings from the CP PLC.</li> <li>Educators will brainstorm ideas for their showcase project.</li> </ul>
<i>Winter Break: December 18, 2023 - January 2, 2024</i>		
Dates*	Session Title	Session Objectives

(see below)		
<b>Semester 2 (January - March 2024)</b>		
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, January 9</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, January 10</b>	Family and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will reflect on their current approach to family and community engagement through the lens of their identity.</li> <li>Educators will build skill in meaningfully engaging families and communities to honor their funds of knowledge.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, January 23</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, January 24</b>	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will reflect on how their identity influences their leadership.</li> <li>Educators will develop ways to build their leadership and the leadership of those around them.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary: Tuesday, February 13</b>  <b>Elementary: Wednesday, February 14</b>	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators will articulate the importance of social justice education in their context.</li> <li>Educators will reflect on and celebrate their overall experiences as a part of the CP PLC.</li> <li>Educators will prepare for their showcase project.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, March 6</b>	Showcase!	