Somali Students in the Diaspora

&

The Dual Life Experience

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Understanding where your students are coming from
What Shapes Their Experience

Success or Failure

Individual Differences

Family and Community Background

School Culture

Individual Factors
Almost every Somali individual in the Diaspora has what he/she considers family back home. What happens there has a profound, and immediate, effect on the psyche of the community here.

Examples? Notable cases?
Family and Community

The Real Conditions of the Parents

The Support System

Internal and External Relations

The Neighborhoods

Living in Two Parallel worlds

Unique to the Somali Community

Mentoring Programs, support groups at school
The School Culture: Important or Not?

- What support systems are available?
- What is the diversity composition at your school?
- Harsh realities we ignore...
- Other impediments to academic achievement?

Mitigating Efforts:

- Is there a platform for expression.
- Corrective actions to old habits.
- The role of religion at school.
Individual Factors

The Age Factor

Exposure – Past and Present

Peer Pressure
Traditional role of the teacher

A Leader
An advocate
An educator
Hilliard Model (so far)

An Intervention Teams
- Play Intermediary Role
- Facilitate Understanding
- Collaborate with Administrators

Advocacy:
- Reasonable Accommodations;
  - Prayers, food and fasting.
  - Make a difference

Outcome
- Better academic achievement
- More confidence student
- Greater sense of identity
Culture Gaps

Youth and young adults have easier time adjusting and going between cultures, while their parents continue to struggle adopting and need schools to play greater role in detecting behavioral problems as they emerge.