Conscious Classrooms: Education for Justice

The California Conference for Equality and Justice has been a leader in implementing anti-bias and anti-racist education for the last 55 years. CCEJ has worked with students, school leaders and staff across Southern California to shift school culture and climate to create more equitable systems and structures where school communities can thrive. Our Conscious Classrooms program offers a wide array of trainings, workshops, and coaching opportunities for youth, educators and community partners alike. Our model focuses on comprehensive trainings, centering social justice education and practices that benefit the entire school community. We have evolved to offer our programs virtually to help meet the growing needs of our communities.

Our Trainings Include:
- Anti-racist and Anti-bias Education
- Social Emotional Learning
- Culturally Relevant Pedagogy
- Trauma Informed Education
- Restorative Practices
- Social Justice Curriculum
- Youth Leadership Development
- Curriculum Development
- Community Circles and Much More!

Last year, we served 1,821 Youth

555 Educators & Community

34 Schools across Southern California

“Throughout this whole experience I have felt an overwhelming feeling of warmth and safety. I love the type of activities we did and then also the outcome of them. I feel like bringing this program to our school was such an amazing idea. It made me happy to know that our school went to this type of effort for us. I hope they continue this program because it’s life changing and eye opening.”

-11th Grade Conscious Classrooms Participant

Attend one of our upcoming in-person or virtual Conscious Classrooms trainings
OR contact us today to schedule a training at your school site!

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Conscious Classrooms: Education for Justice

Conscious Classrooms: Education for Justice is a set of learning opportunities for students, teachers, administrators, and staff to empower young people to build knowledge of social inequities in the world and develop skills to transform their schools and communities to be more inclusive and just. Through experiential, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) grounded in Restorative Justice Practices, Conscious Classrooms creates opportunities for school communities to come together and engage in topics such as Race and Ethnicity in the United States, LGBTQIA+ History and Justice, Gender Norms and Expectations, and Immigration among others.

In our offerings to children and youth, units focus on building the awareness, knowledge, and skills students need to promote respect, advocate for social justice, and strengthen classrooms and schools. The units utilize a Common Core- and California standards-aligned, critical thinking focused curriculum that immerses students in a variety of human relations topics. Conscious Classrooms provides students with opportunities to learn healthy forms of communication, build community across differences, and alter school culture in a positive way.

In our offerings to adult allies, intensive training and coaching experiences provide opportunities to gain tools, hone skills, and build knowledge to promote social justice and equity within classrooms and school communities. Teachers, administrators, staff, and other adults explore topics including implicit bias, frameworks in education equity, Restorative Justice Practices, and Critical Pedagogy, in order to imagine and create their own Conscious Classrooms through curriculum design and facilitation practice.

As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and social injustices continue to challenge all of our communities, Conscious Classrooms aims to provide students, teachers, administrators, and staff the resources and support to continue to strengthen their communities and learning spaces regardless of whether online, in-person, or through a hybrid model. Whether regarding content or format, school communities are invited to share their needs so that Conscious Classrooms can be responsive to your specific setting and community.
Youth Services

Conscious Classrooms Youth workshops and trainings focus on building the awareness, knowledge and skills students need to promote respect, advocate for social justice, and strengthen the learning environment in their schools, classrooms and community spaces. Workshops are designed to be developmentally appropriate for K-12 students and utilize experiential learning models, dialogue circles, critical thinking skills, SEL best practices and Restorative Justice among other tools to support youth empowerment. Through immersion in a variety of human relations topics, Conscious Classrooms provides students with opportunities to learn healthy forms of communication, build community among each other, hone agency and alter school culture in a positive way.

**All workshops and trainings available in person, online or through a hybrid model.**

"This experience is different from school because we get to be really deep in conversation and we slowly feel more and more comfortable to let things out."

-7th Grade Conscious Classrooms Participant

- Conscious Classrooms Units: Social Justice based Common-Core and California State Standard aligned units designed to be integrated into a school’s schedule. CCEJ staff facilitate 10-hours of experiential learning on pre-selected topics that includes 5 hours of content immersion and a 5 hour action component. Topics are aligned to academic courses and can be offered in their entirety or as stand alone workshops to supplement in-class learning. Cohorts are limited to 35 students for in-person trainings and 20 students for online trainings. Topics include but are not limited to:

  
  
  - **Gender ID and ME (Gender Norms and Expectations)** supports content standards in Health Education, English, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Ethnic and Identity Studies among others!
Youth Services (Continued)


- **From Bystander to Ally (Empathy for Others)** supports content standards in Health, Psychology, English, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Ethnic and Identity Studies among others!

- **Voices For Change (Empathy for Self)** supports content standards in Health, Psychology, English, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Ethnic and Identity Studies among others!

- **Conscious Classrooms Workshop Series**: Designed to support youth in building skills, critical thinking, self care and resiliency practices. Our Workshop Series can offer reintegration into school communities now and through the transition back to in-person learning. Conscious Classrooms Workshop Series helps to support Community Building by creating structures and frameworks to help navigate the uncertainty of our current times moving forward. Workshop Series include but are not limited to:

  - **Finding Care and Joy in Self** - What makes us special and unique? What can we learn from our emotions? How can emotions help us understand what we need? What are ways that we can practice building joy and peace for ourselves even in challenging times? This workshop is a love letter to ourselves. Through reflective practices, group experiential activities, community dialogue and exploration of self-care, this workshop will help students identify self-care tools they can use in times of stress and anxiety, support them in navigating communication and conflict, and help them identify ways in which they can return to their own gifts and passions as resiliency practices.

  - **Looking Back to Move Forward** - How have social justice leaders historically navigated times of struggle? What can we learn about resiliency from social justice movements of the past? This workshop will utilize knowledge of freedom fighters of the past as a way to identify practices that will help to ground us in uncertain times. Through experiential learning, discussion groups, and reflective practices, students will begin to identify ways that they can apply learnings from the past, to live a stronger present, and help build a better future.
Youth Services (Continued)

- **Quarantining the “Other”** How do ISMs show up in times of panic? How do mainstream narratives harm our communities? How have stereotypes and racist, sexist and homophobic tropes been used historically to continue to subjugate our most marginalized communities? What can we learn from the past to ensure that we never let this happen again? This workshop will explore ways in which historical moments of panic have created narratives that further marginalize our most vulnerable communities. Students in this workshop will work to connect the past to the present moment, and identify ways that we can practice solidarity and allyship as a way of protesting these problematic narratives.

- **From Bystander to Ally**-How do we continue to build connections during a time of uncertainty? How can we show up and support our most vulnerable communities? What work must I do individually to be able to support others in loving and authentic ways? This workshop will support students in exploring ways to build meaningful connections with community members now and after COVID-19 through interactive learning and dialogue. The workshop will focus on conflict resolution, building resilience through emotional literacy, and practicing agency to empower students to build kinder, more inclusive communities both on and offline.

- **Leaders for Justice**: A youth leadership development program that works to empower high school youth by activating leadership skills, building knowledge on Social Justice issues, practicing and utilizing facilitation skills, and being trained as circle keepers for brave dialogues that help move their communities forward. Participation in Leaders for Justice helps to build student knowledge around organizing where students activate agency to make positive changes for themselves and their communities. The program is ideal for cohorts of students that are honing leadership skills in their respective school communities.

- **Customized Trainings and Dialogue Circles**: CCEJ’s seasoned trainers and curricula authors will design and facilitate a training based on your site’s specific needs and areas of skills improvement. This training is billed based on hours of training and hours of design prep at a ratio of four hours of preparation for every one training hour.

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**Online Workshops and Trainings**

Our online offerings feature interactive learning and dialogue, with frequent use of break out groups for small group discussions and learning. Each workshop and training will be anchored by tools that can be put into easy use by participants. Workshops and trainings will vary between number of sessions and duration of workshops. All online sessions are held on Zoom.
Adult Services (Continued)

- **Teaching for Justice Institute**: Three Day Comprehensive Educator Institute followed by intensive coaching experience designed for schools and educators to gain tools, hone skills and build knowledge to promote social justice and equity within classroom and school communities. Topics include Combatting Implicit Bias in the Classroom, Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, Developing Standards-aligned Social Justice Curriculum, Restorative Justice in Education & much more!

- **Teaching for Justice Educator Intensives**: Professional Development opportunities for educators aimed to build knowledge, skills, tools and best practices around creating equitable and social justice centered learning communities. Workshop topics include Combatting Implicit Bias in the Classroom, Social Justice Curriculum Development, SEL & Covid-19, Building a Restorative Classroom, Frameworks in Education Equity, Gender Identity in the Classroom & many more!

- **Raising Futures**: Workshops for parents and caregivers of adolescent youth. Workshop topics include understanding systemic inequities, supporting positive youth development, affirming youth identities & expressions, understanding youth’s needs & feelings, conflict resolution in our homes & communities, navigating schools & other complex systems, raising sexually healthy youth & much more!

- **Circlekeeping for Staff & Parents/Caregivers**: Experienced CCEJ staff are available to lead circle for exploring issues, navigating conflict, and strengthening relationships and community in a time of high stress and social isolation.

"Conscious Classrooms exceeded my expectations. My goal was to have my students become more respectful to each other and to create a safe space for students to share. This goal was met and exceeded."

-4th Grade Teacher
**Adult Services (Continued)**

- **Facilitation:** CCEJ staff facilitate meetings for teams and committees through responsive agenda design based on site needs and strategic planning framing, especially for post-COVID-19 transition period.

- **Planning for Community Reintegration:** Support for creating trauma sensitive, community building plans for when school and workplace communities are able to physically reunite. Themes include: creating appropriate spaces for students/staff to share and process experiences of COVID-19, re-establishing cultural values and norms, rebuilding relationships and strengthening trust and navigating conflicts that emerged from physical separation, among many more!

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**Billing Process:**

CCEJ invoices partners on a regular basis as services are utilized. CCEJ staff maintain logs of services used, which can be shared with partners upon request. For discrete services such as trainings, CCEJ uses a 1:18 trainer to participant ratio to calculate costs and schedule trainings. Partners will commit to a specific and reasonable amount of Technical Assistance Service when contracting with CCEJ.

CCEJ charges schools for the full amount of time requested. Hours are not transferable beyond the length of specific contracted services. Please notify CCEJ staff of specific requirements you might have regarding billing and payment of contracts beforehand.

For contract partners, CCEJ will work to modify pre-existing plans to match emerging needs and physical distancing requirements.
Our Team

KATHLEAH PAGDILAO, MA
Building Bridges for Youth-Program Director (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)

Kathleah C. Pagdilao oversees the youth development programs and supporting adult leadership programs at CCEJ. A former classroom teacher, Kathleah has a range of experiences that includes developing meaningful, standards-aligned curriculum for students to build community and develop strategies for inclusion; partnering with schools and other youth-serving entities to grow young peoples' leadership; and coordinating trainings for various educational institutions and community-based organizations.

SARAH RANA
PROGRAM COORDINATOR-RESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)

Sarah Rana is the Program Coordinator for Building Bridges Residential Leadership, where she oversees Building Bridges camps and helps support CCEJ youth programs and trainings. Sarah has served as a nonprofit professional and volunteer in Oklahoma for over a decade working with schools, faith organizations, and with community members to provide skills to become positive Change-Agents in their communities. She has directed residential leadership camps for high school students in Oklahoma and Florida focusing on social justice, equity, and inclusion, and created and led diversity and inclusion trainings for corporations, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. Her passion lies in creating spaces for civil discourse and bringing people from differing backgrounds to foster understanding and respect for all.

CÁROL ROJAS, MA
PROGRAM COORDINATOR-SCHOOL LEADERSHIP (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers)

Cárol Rojas is the lead coordinator for Conscious Classrooms, a school-based leadership program that supports students in building empathy, promoting restorative practices, and thinking critically about issues of equity. Cárol also leads the Building Bridges Clubs Alliance (BBCA) which supports high school youth in engaging in social justice work within their school communities. Having served as a teacher for nearly a decade, Cárol brings rich experiences in creating programs that embody culturally relevant pedagogy, address social inequities, and center the needs of students.

SANIYA IBRAHIM
YOUTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST (Pronouns: She/Her/Hers, They/Them)

Saniya Ibrahim leads the Redefining Empowerment and Learning (REAL) Resiliency Program and co-leads Youth Council. REAL Resiliency equips middle and high school youth with tools to navigate systems which perpetuate structural inequities in our society (such as the criminal justice system). As a former classroom teacher, Saniya is passionate about and has experience in designing curriculum that consists of powerful and creative lessons that are culturally relevant and standards-aligned.