

Questions for Cultural Summit Panelists

To the group:

- Tell us about school in your country. What are the roles of parents, teachers, administrators, etc.
- In our schools we often mark special celebrations and observances with food. Tell us about any food-related restrictions we should take in to consideration when planning our school programs.
- Tell us about holy days or times we should consider when planning school activities in order to maximize your culture's participation (e.g., we wouldn't typically plan events for a Sunday morning).
- Please describe some of the clothing norms of your culture. Are there restrictions around them that we should consider for school (e.g., for schools with uniforms, when "dressing out" for P.E., etc...)?
- Are there different roles for men and women with regard to education/school involvement/volunteering in your culture/faith?
- We are hearing at many schools that mobility – whether by choice, cultural norms, or economic circumstance – often limits groups from some cultures from participating at school. What can we do to overcome this challenge?
- Some students might be too shy to share with their teachers or class about a special holiday or observance they're celebrating in their culture, but it would probably make their day to have someone outside their culture recognize and ask them about it without being told. Please share some basic information about an important holiday or observance children from your culture would be proud for us to know about.

To individuals:

- Muslim – Please tell us about a woman's Hijab. Are there considerations we should make for those girls wearing them at school?
- Muslim – Which term is more appropriate "Muslim" or "Islamic"?
- Muslim – Does the recent "anti-Islamic" rhetoric in our culture seem to affect families/kids in our area? If so, how, and what can we do to help address it.
- India/Hindu – Please explain the significance of a tiliak.
- India/Hindu – Why and when do women wear saris?
- Jewish – Is Chaunukah the "Jewish Christmas"? Is it the most important Jewish holiday?
- Brazilian & Hispanic – Clarify the meaning and proper use of the terms "Latino" and "Hispanic"?
- Korean & Chinese – If a school has a large Asian population with language limitations, what suggestions do you have for ways to engage those families and welcome them?