Understanding & Working with Hmong Students

Hmong Population

- Minnesota: **68,625**
- Twin Cities and Metro area: appx. **65,000**
- % of Hmong Spoken at Saint Paul Schools: **44%**
- % of Hmong Spoken at Minneapolis Schools: **8%**

_Hmong Language Immersion Schools in the Twin Cities_  
_Hmong Charter Schools in the Twin Cities_

- Washington Technology Magnet School
- Harding Senior High School
- Battle Creek Middle School
- Hmong Academy Charter School
- Hmong International Academy
Hmong youth perform low on standardized tests. Usually this is because English is their second language. There is also a high rate of post-secondary school dropouts with only 76.2% of students who held a high school diploma in 2010.

- Culture and education often intersect (i.e. the importance of support and contribution to family is priority)
- Studies have shown that the more students are connected to their culture at school, the higher they will achieve because of a support network.

Connecting Culture to Classroom
Ideas of Cultural Relevant Teaching for Hmong Students

- Assign projects related to Hmong history
- Discussing social and cultural inequalities within the community
- Celebrate cultural holidays and traditions (i.e. Hmong New Year)

Knowing a student and their culture is essential for educators to facilitate and structure successful learning for all students.

Common Stereotypes Among Asian American Students

- Students are high achievers and often seek less attention
- Students who don’t speak up don’t need help or assistance
- Students excel in math

“Positive” stereotypes are actually not positive if it pressures the student to be something they are not.

Greeting Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hello</th>
<th>Nyob Zoo</th>
<th>Nyaw - Zhong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Sib Nstib Dua</td>
<td>Shee - Jee - Doua</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nice to meet you</td>
<td>Zoo Siab Nstib Koj</td>
<td>Zhong - Shia - Jee - Gaw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You</td>
<td>Ua Tsaug</td>
<td>Oua - Jow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are Welcome</td>
<td>Tsis Ua Li Cas</td>
<td>Jee - Oua - Lee - Cha</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Hmong Books and Authors

https://www.hmongabc.com/collections/books-ntawv

Cultural Centers, Sites, and Other Resources

Hmong History Center and Library - 375 University Avenue, Suite 204, Saint Paul, MN 55103
Hmong Village Shopping Center - 1001 Johnson Pkwy, St Paul, MN 55106
Hmongtown Marketplace - 217 Como Ave, St Paul, MN 55103
Minnesota Historical Society - http://www.mnhs.org/hmong
Learning About Hmong - http://www.learnabouthmong.net/

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