Social Justice Resources for K-12 Teachers
Teacher Resources

This list of websites, documents, activities, and other online materials offers a variety of perspectives and topics on teaching for social justice in K-12 schools. All materials are free and easily accessible with no registration.

Subject Area

Mathematics

- [For Teachers] Research Project: Teaching Mathematics with a Social Justice Focus PDF
- [For Teachers] Critical Pedagogy and Teaching Mathematics for Social Justice PDF
- [For Teachers] Teaching Mathematics for Social Justice PDF
- [For Teachers] Making Numbers Count
- [Middle School] Mathalicious Lessons Related to Social Justice

English & Language Arts

- [For Teachers] Reading Literature and Cultural Identity
- [Elementary School] The Art of Observation through Poetry
- [Middle School] Rants! Not Just for Complaining- Expressive Writing Lesson Plans
- [High School] Pocahontas and Racism/Sexism
- [High School] Lesson Plan Addressing Race and Racism

History & Social Sciences

- [For Teachers] Talking and Teaching About the Fall 2018 Migrant Caravan
- [For Teachers] A Brief History of Immigration
- [For Teachers] The Making, and Unmaking, of a Child Soldier (Civil War in Sierra Leone)
- [Middle School & High School] Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in Social Studies
- [Middle School & High School] I Witness: Social Justice Activities for the Social Sciences - Language link in the top right corner
- [Middle School & High School] I Witness: Social Justice Activities for World History - Language link in the top right corner
- [High School] Social Justice through the lens of the Black Panthers
- [High School] The Roots of Immigration From El Salvador and Current Policy Debates

Education.uiowa.edu/social-justice-resources-k-12-teachers
Science

- (For Teachers) Teaching Science and Social Justice
- (For Teachers) I Teach Science, Can I Be a Multicultural Educator?
- (For Teachers) Science Education for Social Justice
- (For Teachers) Promoting Authentic Projects in Secondary Classrooms PDF
- (For Teachers) Making the Case for Case Studies NSTA
- (Middle School) Bringing Social Justice into the Science Lab
- (High School) When Talking About Race, Don't Forget the Biology Teacher

Performing Arts

- (For Teachers) League of Voices for Equality
- (For Teachers) Justice Choirs
- (For Teachers) Social Justice in Choral Music Education
- (For Teachers) The Sound of Justice- PRIZM Chamber Orchestra
- (For Teachers) Orchestral Music for Social Change
- (For Teachers) Street Symphony- Social Justice at the Heart of Music Making
- (For Teachers) Life, Music, and Social Justice for All
- (For Teachers) Move to the Music- Protest Songs in the Classroom
- (All Grades) 4 Resources to Teach Kids About Social Justice Through Music
- (All Grades) Exploring Social Justice Through Music
- (Elementary School) Article- Teaching Social Justice in the Elementary Music Class
- (Middle School & High School) Teaching Social Justice in the Music Classroom
- (Middle School & High School) Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in Music
- (Middle School & High School) Music and Social Justice Movements
- (Middle School & High School) Art and Social Justice - PBS

Visual Arts

- (For Teachers) Art and Social Justice- PBS
- (For Teachers) Using Visual Arts to Explore Community
- (For Teachers) Art as a Tool for Social Advocacy
- (For Teachers) We Love Art!
- (Elementary) Art and Activism
- (Middle School & High School) Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in the Arts
• (Middle School & High School) Resilience through Art
• (High School) Art as Resistance, Part 1
• (High School) Art as Resistance, Part 2

Journalism
• (For Teachers) Social Justice Projects in the Classroom
• (For Teachers) Picture Justice
• (Middle School & High School) Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice
• (Middle School) Fighting Fake News
• (Middle School & High School) Journalism for Justice

Foreign Language & ELL/ESL
• (For Spanish Teachers) Teaching Social Justice Through Grammar
• (For Teachers) The Digital Language Divide
• (For Teachers) The Digital Language Divide 2.0- Engaging Hispanic Youth
• (For Language Teachers) Restoring the Ojibwe Language
• (For Language Teachers) Preserving Indigenous Languages Through Twitter
• (For Language Teachers) Resources that Address Issues of Race, Diversity, and Social
Levels

** Indicates Web Page Editor Recommendation

All Grades

- [Anti Defamation League Resources for Educators](#) **
- [Why Teaching About Social Justice Matters](#)
- [Teaching Tolerance- Multiple Lessons for Every Grade with Resources for Educators](#)
- [Social Justice Standards for K-12 Classrooms](#)
- [For Teachers – All Grades] Five Must-Have Resources to Make Back-to-School Gender Inclusive (Human Rights Campaign)
- [For Teachers- All Grades] Using Gender Neutral Language in Your Classroom [PDF](#)
- [For Teachers- All Grades] Let's Talk About Ableism
- [For Teachers- All Grades] What Does an Inclusive School Look Like?
- [All Grades] Moving Beyond Gender Barriers - With Lesson Plans
- [All Grades] Lessons on Gender and Sexual Identity
- [All Grades] Discussing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Identity and Issues- With Lesson Plans
- [All Grades] Schools in Transition: A guide for supporting transgender students in K-12 schools [PDF](#)
- [All Grades] Lessons on Civil Rights and Activism
- [All Grades] Discussing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Issues
- [All Grades] Bullying and Cyber Bullying Resources
- [All Grades] Empathy Toolkit and Activities [PDF](#)
- [All Grades] 4 Resources to Teach Kids About Social Justice Through Music

Elementary School (PreK-6)

- [5 Activities to Teach Preschoolers About Hunger](#)
- [Teaching Young Children About Bias, Diversity, and Social Justice](#)
- [Blog on Teaching Social Justice in Primary Classrooms](#)
- [Diversity Lesson Plans and Activities](#)
- [Article- Teaching Social Justice in the Elementary Music Class](#)
- [Activities to Learn about Poverty](#)
- [Elementary] Using Their Words- Multidisciplinary units in Social Justice **
- [Elementary] Math and Social Justice Lesson Plans
- [Elementary K-2] Lessons on Disability
- [Elementary 3-5] Lessons on Disability

Education.uiowa.edu/social-justice-resources-k-12-teachers
• (Elementary) Teaching Others about Autism
• (Elementary) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLESN)
• (Elementary School 3-5) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
• (Elementary) Teaching Young Children About Bias, Diversity, and Social Justice
• (Elementary School K-2) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
• (Elementary School) The Art of Observation through Poetry
• (Elementary School) Article- Teaching Social Justice in the Elementary Music Class
• (Elementary) Art and Activism
• (Elementary K-2) Social Justice Art for Visual Arts Students, It Can be Done!

Middle School (7-8)

• Classroom Resources (Teaching Tolerance - A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center)**
• Understanding and Challenging Ageism (Civics)- With Lesson Plans
• Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice
• Teaching Social Justice Through Mathematics
• Analyzing the School Holiday Calendar
• Searchable Lessons on Social Justice
• Activities to Learn About Poverty
• Diversity Lessons Plans and Activities
• (Middle School) Mathalicious Lessons Related to Social Justice (High School) Math and Social Justice Lesson Plans
• (Middle School) Math and Social Justice Lesson Plans
• (Middle School) Rants! Not Just for Complaining- Expressive Writing Lesson Plans
• (Middle School) Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in Social Studies
• (Middle School) I Witness: Social Justice Activities for the Social Sciences
• (Middle School) I Witness: Social Justice Activities for World History
• (Middle School) Bringing Social Justice into the Science Lab
• (Middle School) Teaching Social Justice in the Music Classroom
• (Middle School) Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in Music
• (Middle School) Art and Social Justice - PBS
• (Middle School) Searchable Lessons on Social Justice in the Arts
• (Middle School) Resilience through Art
• (Middle School) Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice
• (Middle School) Lessons on Disability
• (Middle School) What is Agism?

Education.uiowa.edu/social-justice-resources-k-12-teachers
• (Middle School) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLESN)
• (Middle School) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
• (Middle School) Civil Rights or Human Rights?
• (Middle School) GLESN Educator Resources LGBTQ
• (Middle School) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
• (Middle School) Bullying, Bias, and Diversity
• (Middle School) Lessons on Religion
• (Middle School) Music and Social Justice Movements
• (Middle School) Art and Social Justice - PBS
• (Middle School) Resilience Through Art
• (Middle School) Fighting Fake News

High School (9-12)

• The First Amendment in Public Schools (History, Government) - With Lesson Plans
• Understanding and Challenging Ageism (Civics) - With Lesson Plans
• Best Gender Equality Podcasts
• Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice
• Engaging and Understanding Non-religious People
• Analyzing the School Holiday Calendar
• Searchable Lessons on Social Justice **
• Diversity Lesson Plans and Activities
• Activities to Learn about Poverty
• Social Justice Curriculum for High School
• (High School) 21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge
• (High School) Math and Social Justice Lesson Plans
• (High School) Pocahontas and Racism/Sexism
• (High School) Lessons on Disability
• (High School) Art and Social Justice - PBS
• (High School) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLSEN)
• (High School) Chinese in the 19th Century
• (High School) Music and Social Justice Movements
• (High School) "Wedding Cake, Same-Sex Marriage, and Discrimination"
• (High School) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
• (High School) Bullying, Bias, and Diversity
• (High School) Lessons on Religion
• **(High School) The First Amendment**
• **(High School) Teaching Unit on Ableism**
• **(High School) Resilience Through Art**
• **(High School) Art as Resistance, Part 1**
• **(High School) Art as Resistance, Part 2**
• **(High School) Do Something - Volunteer and Social Change Platform**
• **(High School) Global Openess Project**
Themes

Tolerance

- (For Teachers) Classroom Resources (Teaching Tolerance - A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center)
- (For Teachers) Social Justice Projects and Lessons - Padlet
- (For Teachers) Teaching Tolerance (Multiple Lessons for All Grades with Resources for Educators)
- (For Teachers) Slurs, Offensive Jokes, and How to Respond (Multiple Lessons for Middle School and High School)
- (For Teachers) Green Card Voices
- (All Grades) Social Justice Lesson Plans
- (Elementary) Community Pride
- (Middle School & High School) What is Agism?
- (For Teachers) EdChange

Race & Bias

- (For Teachers) How to Talk About Racism
- (For Teachers) Three Skills You Need to Discuss Race in Classrooms
- (For Teachers) Engaging Young People in Conversations about Race and Racism
- (For Teachers) Challenging Racial Injustice
- (For Teachers) Seven Things We Learned from the DC Area Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools
- (For Teachers- All Grades) A Framework for Teaching Slavery
- (For Teachers) Exchanging Stories - The Effects of Naming
- (For Teachers) The Problem with Little White Girls, Boys, and Voluntourism
- (For Teachers) Black Lives Matter at School
- (For Teachers) Talking about Race (National Museum of African American History & Culture)
- (Elementary) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLSEN)
- (Elementary) Questioning Columbus
- (Elementary School 3-5) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
- (Elementary) Teaching Young Children About Bias, Diversity, and Social Justice
- (Elementary School K-2) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
- (Middle School) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLSEN)
- (Middle School) Race & Ethnicity Learning Plans
- (High School) Lesson Plans on Diversity (GLSEN)
Global Issues

- (For Teachers) Islam, Social Justice, and the Global Refugee Crisis
- (For Teachers) How Schools Around the World Are Tackling Social Justice- Part 1
- (For Teachers) How Schools Around the World Are Tackling Social Justice- Part 2
- (All Grades) Against All Odds - What It's Like to be a Refugee - Online Game
- (All Grades) Teaching about Refugees (UNHCR)
- (High School) Global Openness Project
- (For Teachers) UN Sustainable Development Goals

Gender

- (For Teachers- All Grades) Five Must-Have Resources to Make Back-to-School Gender Inclusive (Human Rights Campaign)
- (For Teachers) Alliance for International Women's Rights
- (For Teacher) Difference Between Gender and Sexuality
- (For Teachers) Oppression in a 3-piece Suit
- (For Teachers- All Grades) Using Gender Neutral Language in Your Classroom - PDF
- (All Grades) Moving Beyond Gender Barriers - With Lesson Plans
- (All Grades) Lessons on Gender and Sexual Identity
- (All Grades) Discussing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Identity and Issues - With Lesson Plans
- (All Grades) Schools in Transition: A guide for supporting transgender students in K-12 schools

Civil Rights

- Resources (Civil Rights Teaching)
- (All Grades) Lessons on Civil Rights and Activism
- (Elementary) Civil Rights Activity Book: puzzles, songs and photos to teach children about events of the civil rights movement.
- (Middle School & High School) Civil Rights or Human Rights?
- (High School) Human Rights Personal Stories (Voices of Youth)

LGBTQ

- (For Teachers) Difference Between Gender and Sexuality
- (All Grades) Discussing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Issues
- (Elementary) Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)- Educator Resources
- (Middle School) GLSEN Educator Resources
- (High School) GLSEN Educator Resources

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Bullying and Cyberbullying

- (High School) "Wedding Cake, Same-Sex Marriage, and Discrimination"
- (For Teachers) Think B4 You Speak (GLSEN)

- (All Grades) Bullying and Cyber Bullying Resources
- (All Grades) Empathy Toolkit and Activities PDF
- (Elementary 3-5) Using Their Words- Don’t Start (Bullying)
- (Elementary K-2) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
- (Elementary 3-5) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
- (Middle School) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
- (Middle School) Bullying, Bias, and Diversity
- (High School) Lessons on Bullying and Bias
- (High School) Bullying, Bias, and Diversity

Religious Freedom

- (Elementary 3-5) Lessons on Religion
- (Middle School) Lessons on Religion
- (Middle School & High School) Analyzing the School Holiday Calendar
- (High School) Lessons on Religion
- (High School) The First Amendment

Disability Education

- (For Teachers- All Grades) Let's Talk About Ableism
- (For Language Teachers) Languages Without Limits - Teaching languages to special needs students
- (For Teachers- All Grades) What Does an Inclusive School Look Like?
- (For Teachers- High School) Teacher's Guide: Ableism PDF
- (For Teachers- Middle School & High School) Summer Camps in Iowa for Special Needs Students & Volunteer Opportunities
- (Elementary) Teaching About Ableism
- (Elementary) Teaching Others about Autism
- (Elementary) Disability Awareness Activities
- (Elementary K-2) Lessons on Disability
- (Elementary 3-5) Lessons on Disability
- (Middle School) Disability Awareness Packet PDF
- (Middle School) Lessons on Disability
• (High School) Teaching Unit on Ableism PDF
• (High School) Lessons on Disability
Media

This list of books, videos, and other recommended resources not available online offers a place for educators to start building a social justice library or collection.

Books

Elementary

- (Elementary) 40 Picture Books for Young Activists
- (Elementary) A Mighty Girl- Books, Toys, and Apparel for Confident, Strong, Courageous Girls
- (All Grades) 50 Book Lists for Social Justice
- (Elementary) National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) Social Justice Book List - Pre-K through Gr. 3 p. 4-15
- (Elementary) NNSTOY Social Justice Book List- Gr. 4-6 p. 16-29
- (Elementary) LGBTQ Picture Books
- (Elementary) Children's Books about Kids with Special Needs

Middle School

- (All Grades) 50 Book Lists for Social Justice
- (Middle School) Social Justice Books for Teens
- (Middle School) NNSTOY Social Justice Book List- Gr. 7-9 p. 30-41
- (Middle School) 8 Empowering Middle School Novels for Kids Interested in Social Justice
- (Middle School) LGBTQ Middle School Books

High School

- (High School) BookBub- Books on Social Justice
- (All Grades) 50 Book Lists for Social Justice
- (High School) Social Justice Books for Teens
- (High School) NNSTOY Social Justice Book List- Gr. 10-12 p. 42-69
- (High School) LGBTQ Young Adult Books
- (High School) LGBTQ Biographies and Autobiographies

For Teachers

- (For Teachers- All Grades) Social Justice Books for Educators
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- (For Language Teachers) Critical Inquiry in Language Study
- (For Language Teachers) Teaching Languages Through the Lens of Social Justice
- (For Teachers- All Grades) Book List for Becoming an Anti-Bias Educator
- (All Grades) 50 Book Lists for Social Justice (Ex. Arabs and Arab American, Black History, Jewish Identity, Women, White Identity, etc.)
- (For Teachers- All Grades) Disability in Kid Lit
- (For Teachers- All Grades) NNSTOY Social Justice Book List
- (For Teachers- All Grades) LGBTQ Biographies and Autobiographies
- (For Teachers-All Grades) "Multiplication is for White People": Raising Expectations for Other People’s Children
- (For Teachers-All Grades) The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children
- (For History Teachers) Teaching What Really Happened: How to Avoid the Tyranny of Textbooks and Get Students Excited About Doing History
- (For Social Studies Teachers) A People’s History of the United States
- (For Social Studies Teachers) Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong
- (For Math Teachers) Rethinking Mathematics: Teaching Social Justice by the Numbers

Podcasts & Blogs

- (For Teachers- All Grades) Social Justice Podcasts for Educators
- (For Teachers) EverthingESL- A Blog About English Language Learners
- (For Teachers- All Grades) Restorative Justice Podcasts for Educators
- (For Teachers- All Grades) Podcast- Making School a Safe Place for LGBTQ Students
- (For Teachers) 8 podcasts every social justice advocate should follow
- (For Teachers) Pushing the Edge

Movies

- PBS Movies on Civil Rights (Free Online)
- (For Teachers) Multicultural Education video featuring Dr. Sonia Nieto
- Babble- The Best Documentaries on Social Justice
- Teaching Tolerance Film-Kits (All Grades)
- Short Films on Race and Racism
- 21 Social Justice Documentaries on Netflix
Research

These links will take you to academic research to support the teaching of social justice in our schools.

- (Administration) Promoting social justice in schools: Principal’s political strategies
- (Administration) Disrupting injustice: Principals narrate the strategies they use to improve their schools and advance social justice
- (Administration) A study of rural high school principals’ perceptions as social justice leaders
- (Administration) Principals leading for educational equity: Social justice in action (Dissertation) PDF
- (Counselors) Social Justice Advocacy Framework for Professional School Counselors PDF
- (Teachers) Teaching for Social Justice: Veteran High School Teachers’ Perspectives PDF
- (Teachers) Creating Classrooms for Social Justice
- (Teachers) Social Justice and Music Education in the Post 9/11 United States PDF
- (Elementary Teachers) Six Elements of Social Justice Curriculum Design for the Elementary Classroom