Walling Off or Welcoming In? Supporting Resources

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This case raises a number of issues. This space includes resources for educators to find out more about them, and to facilitate a democratic school culture.

1. **School Culture and Student Talk**
   - As part of the Common Core State Standards for Speaking and Listening, students must be able to engage in discussions by listening to others and crafting their own arguments.
   - For lessons and teaching ideas to create more caring classrooms through social and emotional learning, see:
     - Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility helps students build conflict-resolution skills, provides professional development to create a more inclusive classroom, and teaches school administrators how to build a safer school environment.
     - The Inner Resilience Program works with parents and educators to provide self-care practices, time for reflection, and "techniques to create caring classroom communities that nurture the whole child."
     - Open Circle provides a curriculum for elementary schools that emphasizes empathy and positive relationships, and helps students build problem-solving skills and their ability to manage emotions.
     - Responsive Classroom is a research-based classroom management approach that drives intrinsic motivation to follow democratically-created rules that cultivate RC's core values of belonging, significance, and fun. By modelling and teaching the behaviors we expect and by responding to misbehavior with logical consequences, we are able to sustain a calm and predictable classroom environment.
   - For anti-bullying programs and curriculum to bring to your school, see Hey Unique Gifted Lovable You. The program includes a kick-off assembly, the creation of a student-led stop bullying task force, and monthly empathy learning activities for sustainability.

2. **Friendship, Identity, and Bias**
   - Lesson Plans for Grades K-5 #TeachResistance toolkit: developed by NYC educators, these lessons are designed around the Common Core State Standards as well as the Anti-Bias standards from the Southern Poverty Law Center.
   - Example of affirming message of inclusion: Letter to Students (For Everyone)
   - Rethinking Schools: What's Your Story? (Student Identity on the Walls in Philly) presents a project idea that can elicit student identity and deepen a conversation about race.
   - For use in Staff PD: The Guardian Are You Non-Racist, or Anti-Racist?
   - Anti-bullying book for girls: Stand Up for Yourself and Your Friends
   - Bullying books for parents and educators
   - Harvard Implicit Bias Test for discovering your racial, age, and gender bias
   - Clearer Thinking Tool for discovering your empirical political knowledge and bias

3. **State and Federal Bullying/ Harassment Laws and Policies**
   - For data on individuals and specific groups most at-risk, go here. Additional resources
     - Students with Disabilities
     - LGBTQ Students
     - Ethnic and Racial Minorities
   - Currently, federal laws only specifically address bullying when bullying qualifies as discriminatory harassment
   - For federal laws and policies regarding harassment and discriminatory harassment, see Office of Civil Rights "Dear Colleague" Letter: Harassment and Bullying.
   - For federal laws and policies regarding first amendment protections, see Office of Civil Rights "Dear Colleague" Letter: First Amendment.
     - One offensive comment still qualifies as protected speech under the First Amendment unless it qualifies as discriminatory harassment of a protected class. See The Intersection of Free Speech and Harassment Rules.
   - More about other state's anti-bullying laws and policies can be found here: State Anti-Bullying Laws and Policies
     - State anti-bullying laws can include additional protected classes.

4. **School Anti-Bullying Policies**
   - Schools must strike a balance between allowing students to participate in conversations about political differences while also keeping students safe from bullying and harassment. See Guidelines for Free and Safe Public Schools.
   - Grade level and developmental stage play a factor in determining the offensiveness and disruptiveness of speech and should be considered in school policy. See Guidelines for Free and Safe Public Schools.
   - School policies affecting "speech must be content and viewpoint neutral, and the policy cannot "preemptively prevent students from exercising their right to freely express themselves." Private schools experience more freedom to craft narrower policies since public school are state actors and "subject to First Amendment scrutiny." To further understand how schools navigate the intersection of free speech and harassment when making school policy, click here.
   - Outside of a school context, the duty to avoid offensive situations falls on the individual offended. See Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville and a discussion of the case here. This case, however, does not guide school policy as mandatory attendance and the different developmental stages of students do not allow them to avoid offensive speech as easily.

5. **Trump and Democracy**
   - Teaching in the Time of Trump advocates for teachers allowing equal space for all political views in the classroom to prepare them to be active members of our democracy: "A democratically legitimate policy is one that is forged by the inclusion of all reasonable perspectives."
   - SPLC's Teaching Tolerance released Teaching the Inauguration that provides guidance on how teachers can teach the inauguration by emphasizing its tradition and the day's activities through historical examples.
   - The Zinn Education Project's, Teaching After the Election of Trump, provides lessons and classroom resources to teach the election that include the importance of social movements, divisive politics, and an examination of Trump's proposals.

- Common Dreams: [Teaching Civics in the Time of Trump](), argues that students need a better understanding of how the government works in order to effectively advocate for federal, state, or local change.