Do You See Me?
The Importance of Pronouncing Student Names Correctly

Wednesday, November 9, 2022
7:00-8:00 p.m. ET

Presented by:
Yahaira Rodriguez, Paraeducator, MA
Wafa’ Safi-Hassan, NEA Teaching & Policy Fellow, IN
Ambereen Khan-Baker, NEA Sr. Policy/Program Specialist/Analyst
Why are we here?

- Pronouncing a student's name correctly is important
- The importance of pronouncing a student's name correctly is often overlooked
- In this session we will discuss:
  - the importance of pronouncing a student's name properly
  - the impact it can have on a student throughout their life
  - strategies and techniques to master how to say names properly
Our time together

1. Welcome & Intros
2. Why?
3. How?
4. Reflection
Activator

In the chat box, share:

- your name
- how to pronounce your name
- the origin of or a story behind your name
Our names...

Yahaira Rodriguez
- Paraeducator
- Massachusetts
- yrodriguez3@outlook.com
- yahairarf09@gmail.com
Our names...

Wafa' Safi-Hassan
- Teaching and Policy Fellow
- HS Science Teacher
- Indiana
- wafasafi@gmail.com
Our names...

Ambereen Khan-Baker, NBCT
- NEA Senior Policy/Program Specialist/Analyst
- akhanbaker@nea.org
What some students say...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7it5CLU2tU
What the research says...

When we mispronounce students' names, especially, you know, in the K-12 education system, children feel typically report:

- Feeling really, really ashamed/not enough
- A sense of not belonging
- Not feeling psychologically safe
- They start shutting down when it comes to their identity
- Feeling more shame about their culture.
Connecting to Culture/Family

• Our names are an incredibly important part of our identity.
• They carry deep personal, cultural, familial, and historical connections.
• They also give us a sense of who we are, the communities in which we belong, and our place in the world.
• Our name and the right pronunciation connect us to our memories with our families, community and friends.
Importance of Pronouns

- Shows respect
- Creates safe and welcoming environments
- Fosters opportunities to build connections
Strategies: How we try to pronounce our students’ names?
Strategies: How we try to pronounce our students’ names?

Share in the chat box:

- Have you tried any of the strategies we mentioned? What was the outcome?
- Are there any other strategies you’ve tried? How did it go?
What NOT to do...

- Not attempt to say students’ names
- Make comments about how difficult it is to pronounce names
- Create nicknames
- Make jokes
- Give up!
Exit Activity

1. Question I still have
2. Ways I will use or apply what I’ve learned
3. Things I learned today

Share in chatbox
Additional Resources

NEA Resources
• Why Pronouncing Students' Names Correctly is So Important
• The Lasting Impact of Mispronouncing Students' Names
• Why Pronouns Matter
• Pronoun Guide

Other Resources
• Name Mispronunciations – Students' Opinions (YouTube video)
• My Name, My Identity
• Why a Mispronounced Name Can Be So Frustrating