

Schooltalk:

Rethinking What We Say About—and to—Students Every Day

By Mica Pollock

Seeking a foundational text sparking educational equity work in any setting? Join others using *Schooltalk* to lay a foundation for equity effort.

“In her compelling and strikingly accessible book, . . . Pollock argues that the language we use in everyday dialogue has the power to shape the lives of young people profoundly. . . [Pollock encourages readers] to actively reflect on their own language, discuss the book with others, and put its ideas into practice within their local communities. . . In this way, the book aspires to create a dynamic cadre of ‘equity designers’ in each local school community.” —*Teachers College Record*, 2017

Readers are calling *Schooltalk* an essential “awareness-booster” for education that catalyzes equity efforts by getting people asking: *Does this communication help support equity, or not?*



Appropriate for teachers, administrators, system leaders, and graduate/undergraduate students alike, *Schooltalk* offers cutting-edge research, reflective THINK/DISCUSS questions, and activities for equity-focused professional development, critical thinking, and action anywhere.

Check out these ways educators are using *Schooltalk* in equity efforts:

Professors are using *Schooltalk* for foundational education & diversity courses.

“I use *Schooltalk* in my course Multicultural Issues in Education to help my undergraduate students take the research we address in the course, and apply it to real life conversations about race and culture. Students have noted that the book is very accessible and allows them to address real life situations and dilemmas where they might have the research in hand, but don’t quite know how to translate it.”
—Sofia Villenas, Cornell University

“[*Schooltalk*] so seamlessly travels from the societal to the institutional to the group level to the personal level and back out. It’s replete with tools [and] an invaluable resource to teachers as they think about the day to day reality of their classrooms.”
—Ali Michael, University of Pennsylvania

“I’ve been using the book with teachers from across the district in my graduate leadership course. They have taken the book to heart for building a culture of equity as potential leaders.” —Teacher educator, Boston

School leaders are using *Schooltalk* as a schoolwide text for critical inquiry.

“We have been reading & discussing *Schooltalk* as a faculty. Our conversations have invited teachers, some for the first time, to consider the impact that their words have on students. Pollock’s “core tensions” have provided them with language to describe issues that are typically hard for them to grapple with. *Schooltalk* asks teachers to look at their own behavior and has been an eye opener for many teachers at our school. In all, *Schooltalk* has provided teachers a much needed vehicle for introspection.”

—**Esta Montano, Ed.D., Director of Instruction/Acting Assistant Headmaster, Boston Latin Academy**

Professional development providers are using *Schooltalk* to catalyze equity efforts in schools and districts.

“In her powerful book *Schooltalk*, Dr. Mica Pollock challenges educators to take the simple yet bold step towards equity through mindful conversation with and about all students. . . .As educators strive to create inclusive schools, this book stands out with clear instruction for reflection and action. I have recommended *Schooltalk* to hundreds of educators as a must read resource for teachers, bus drivers, counselors, advisors, parents, trainers... anyone who touches students’ lives and is purposeful about contributing to their success.” —**Laura Lomax, Vice President of Programs, Pearl S. Buck International**

“The invaluable lessons and strategies gleaned from *Schooltalk* workshops with school and district leaders have highlighted how central they can be in helping build educators’ and school systems’ capacities to address their diversity and equity challenges.” —**Robert L. Jarvis, Director of Equity Leadership Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania**

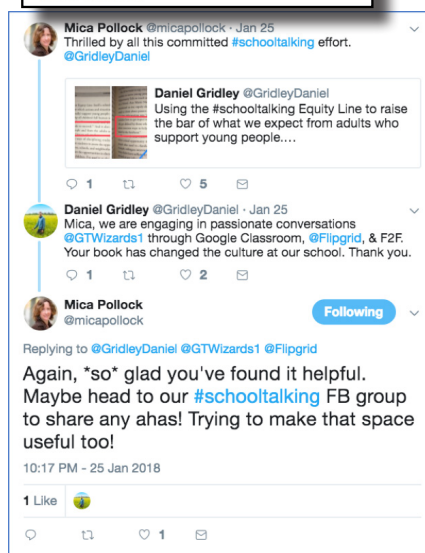
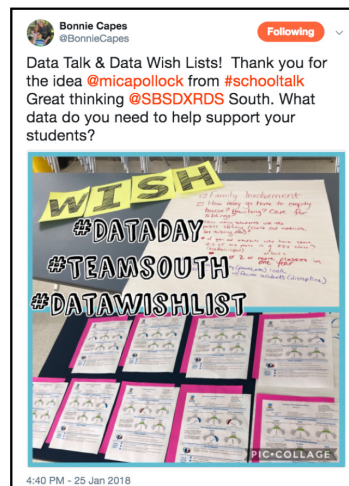
“*Schooltalk* masterfully shines a light on ways we communicate with and about kids. It is important for people who work with children to have resources like this —especially ones that take a theoretical framework and turn that into actionable steps... an excellent professional development tool for school staff.”

—**School leader, San Diego**

Pollock “reminds us, in a very realistic way, that the most basic thing we do all day in school is talk. Yet she goes a step further as she brings to the forefront of her book, *Schooltalk*, what anyone working with children needs to remember — we can derail children when the way we talk to them harms them. Through a variety of types of talk (group talk, inequity talk, smart talk, culture talk, data talk, life talk and opportunity talk), Pollock discusses the significance of equity as the collective development of children.”

—**American Association of School Administrators**

Teachers are using *Schooltalk* in self-propelled book clubs and professional development.



Educators are talking about their #schooltalking improvements and sharing resources online.



“Your book has changed the culture of our school.” —**Teacher in Raleigh, NC**

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