Praise for All Students Must Thrive

“All Students Must Thrive is the book we need right now. There is growing awareness that by focusing narrowly on student achievement we have ignored the social and emotional needs of too many children. As a result, the children with the greatest needs are usually the ones who do least well in school. This book provides practical insights on how to reverse that tendency by incorporating a focus on the social and emotional needs of children into our classrooms and school so that all children can indeed thrive.”—Pedro A. Noguera, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Education, faculty director, Center for the Transformation of Schools

“All Students Must Thrive: Transforming Schools to Combat Toxic Stressors and Cultivate Critical Wellness is a brilliantly constructed manual for deliberately combatting the pervasive layers of oppression that permeate school practices, structures, and systems—and ourselves—and that harm our young people. It makes clear that caring for youth requires centering relationships and an intentional focus on critical wellness. The impressive team of authors brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the project of transformation that must begin with each of us and that must also be collective and systemic work. Each writer argues convincingly for a key element of the kaleidoscope of action necessary to adopt a critical wellness framework rooted in the tenets of critical pedagogy and critical race theory. The book offers thoughtful support for action to disrupt patterns of racism and oppression without detaching the practical from the theoretical. The authors deftly interweave theory, history, and critical analysis with practice and the result is a book rich in resources that meets each reader where they are. They provide language to use, scenarios to consider, questions for the field to take up, beginning steps on how to do this challenging work, and support for learning and action. This is a seminal text that every educator must study and use to develop themselves and their practice, as individuals and as members of communities.”—Deborah Loewenberg Ball, William H. Payne Collegiate Professor in Education and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor; director, TeachingWorks; research professor, Institute for Social Research

“Tyrone Howard and his author team have helped many of our nation's educators grow their skills and understanding, so that schools are equitable places. All Students Must Thrive provides straightforward structures and strategies for identifying both intentional and unintentional ideologies, theories, practices, and policies that contribute to inequities. The authors also share insights on how to best combat these inequities. A must-read for those committed to assisting all children to become all they are capable of being.”—Bill Daggett, founder and chairman, International Center for Leadership in Education

“Over the last several years, massive breakthroughs have been happening across fields like neuroscience, physiology, and social epidemiology that have exploded our thinking about how radicalized inequality and toxic stress affect the well-being of our young people. These findings often echo the best teachings of our ancestors, which have been largely ignored, and have led to important shifts in the conversation about meeting the
needs of vulnerable and wounded students. Tyrone Howard and his coauthors have been on the leading edge of those conversations because they are on the ground, doing the work directly with the students and teachers that are most urgently in need of our support. For that reason, All Students Must Thrive is an essential volume for all those that call themselves concerned with the youth and families that our school systems have continuously failed to serve.”—Jeff Duncan-Andrade, PhD, associate professor, Raza Studies & Education, San Francisco State University

“In All Students Must Thrive, Dr. Howard and his coauthors affirm, with grace and clarity, what educators, activists, and Black and Brown communities have long felt in their bones: that to educate a student is to acknowledge, celebrate, and uplift their complex racial and cultural identities. The strategies and insights offered in this volume to advance that understanding by elevating the field’s cultural awareness are elegant and informed by the team’s unparalleled expertise and collective decades of education practitioner experience. Our work in New Jersey is focusing on transformation, including forging a culture of high expectations and diversifying our teaching force. These initiatives, in tandem with our embrace of a whole-child approach to education through enhancing social and emotional learning, help ensure that all students succeed in school and in life. In this book, Dr. Howard and his team offer insights and recommendations to support this most fundamental need. I am hopeful that all other educators concerned with democratizing access to high-quality education for students of all races, cultures, and lived experiences will do well to consider the practices and understandings shared in this work.”—Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet, EdD, New Jersey Department of Education