



DIVERSE LEARNERS

S E R I E S

Supporting the Success of Diverse Learners – Summary

In this segment you have learned some key factors that affect the success of diverse learners.

What factors in the school and classroom environment affect the success of diverse learners?

- Learners with varied backgrounds thrive in school and classroom environments that welcome and support diversity. These include -
 - School environments that embrace differences in ways people think, act and appear and,
 - Environments where teachers and staff work to engage all students in learning.
- The attitude of individual educators towards diversity is a foundation for establishing supportive environments -
 - Educators need to assess for themselves the importance of recognizing diversity.
 - Educators need to examine their own comfort in talking about things such as race, gender identity or cultural differences.
- Environments that support diversity use a responsive curriculum and instruction -
 - Diverse learners can relate to instructional material including the style of presentation (visual vs. auditory) and the content.

- Educators recognize their own need to learn and change -
 - Many educators consider themselves as accepting of diversity and don't appreciate the importance of ongoing learning and growth.
 - Educators understand there is no "right" way for everyone to learn.

How can you enhance your relationships with diverse learners to promote their success?

Remember : one of the most influential factors affecting the success of diverse learners is the personal and academic relationship between the educator and student.

- Two key things educators can do to develop relationships with diverse learners -
 1. Be authentic
 - Honestly appraise your thinking about diversity.
 - Recognize your biases.
 - Understand the connection between our personal histories and how we think about and act towards students.



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2. Learn from the students you support -
- Have a mindset that learning is a two-way street.
 - The student's unique differences give us opportunities for new learning.
 - Communicate your wish to understand diverse students.
 - Find out from a student what is meaningful and important for you to know about them.
 - Learn something from a student every day.

Mythbuster

MYTH: Being thoughtful and keeping an open mind will eliminate biases.

TRUTH: We all have biases and need to continually examine them in order to effectively work with diverse populations of students.

Go Do It !

In the next two weeks, actively seek to learn more about the family and/or cultural history of two different students and see how that information might influence how you work with those students.