

The Importance of Differentiation in an Inclusive K-5 Classroom.

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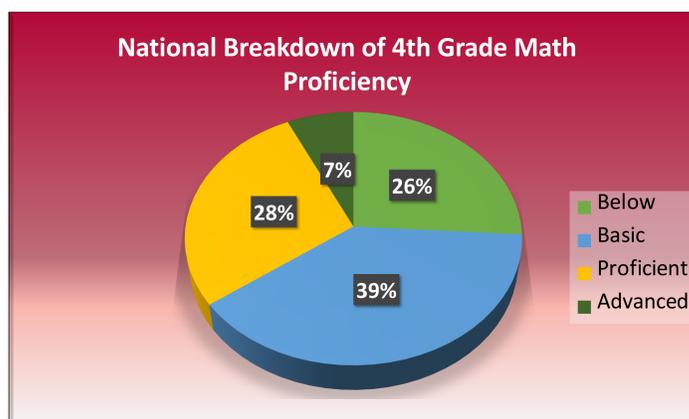
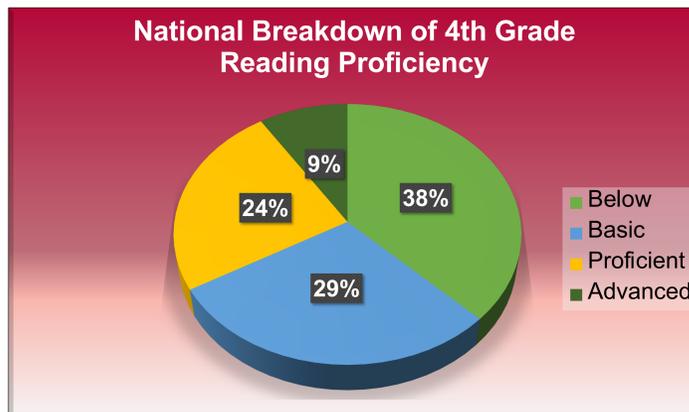
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

TPEP CRITERION

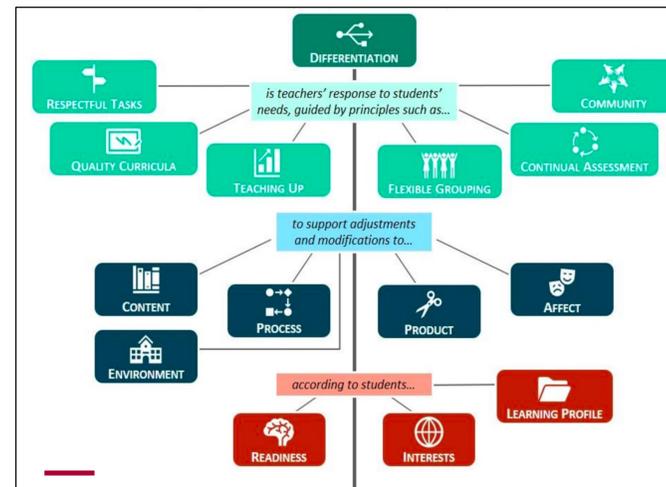
Criterion 3: Recognizing individual student learning needs and developing strategies to address those needs. (OSPI, 2024)

HOW IS MY TOPIC DEFINED?

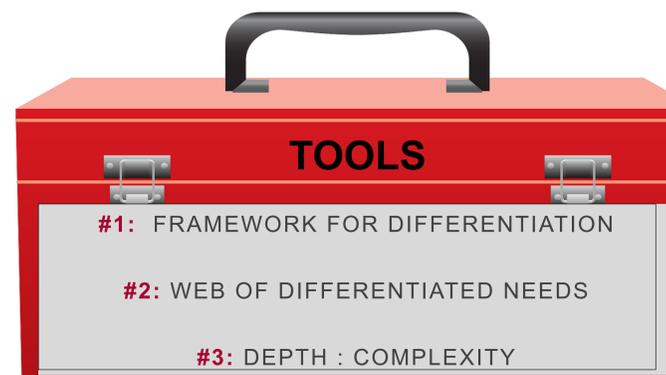
Differentiation: The teacher acquires and uses specific knowledge about students' cultural, individual, intellectual, and social development and uses that knowledge to adjust their practice by employing strategies that advance student learning. Student growth data must be a substantial factor utilizing the OSPI approved student growth rubrics. (OSPI, 2024). There are three areas of instruction that can be improved by differentiation; the content (what students learn), the process (how students learn), or the product (how students demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge or skills. (ASCD, 2010)



www.nationsreportcard.gov/mathematics/states/achievement/?grade=4



schoools.utah.gov/ulead/uleadfiles/reports/bestpractice/Best%20Practices%20in%20Differentiated%20Instruction.pdf



Depth	Complexity					
	Recall	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Factual	All Students			All Students		
Procedural	All Students			All Students		
Conceptual	All Students			Gifted Students		

(Heacox & Cash, pg. 26, 2020)

SUPPORTIVE THEORIES

Zone of Proximal Development

Where it takes guidance for a learner to be able to complete a task or achieve a skill. With enough guidance, over time students should be able to transition from the zone of proximal development to a place where they can do things unaided. In all classrooms there are students on both ends of this concept, however in an inclusive classroom model those differences will be exacerbated and can create much more work and stress for a teacher who is not versed in a variety of techniques to differentiate to their myriad of learners.

(Finkelstein, Sharma, and Furlonger, 2019)

Universal design for learning (UDL)

- Present information and content in different ways.
- Differentiate how students can express what they know.
- Provide Multiple Means of Engagement.
- A framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all students includes methods and materials that are flexible and powerful to help all students, regardless of their ability, to maximize their progress.

(CPE, 2019)

5 Focuses of Social Emotional Learning

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Relationship Skills

(Weissberg, 2016)



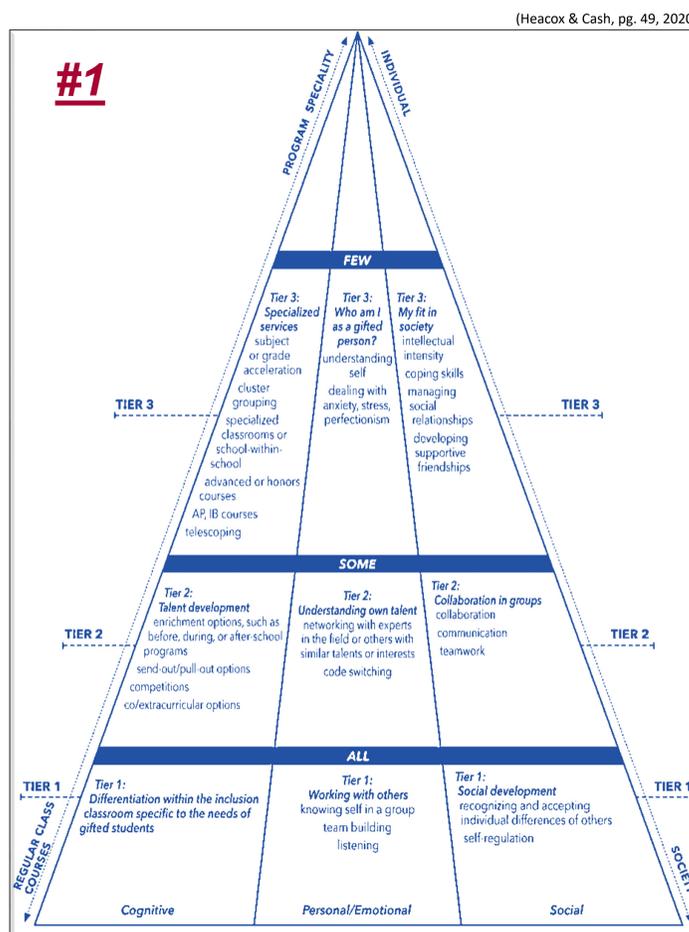
SUPPORTING STATISTICS

• According to the National Center for Education Statistics in 2021-22 15% of all public-school students receive special education and/or related services. (Coe, 2023).

• According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in fall of 2020 10.3% of all public-school students were ELL/MLL students. (Coe, 2023).

• 67% of students who are served under by IDEA spent 80% of their school day in the general education classroom. (Coe, 2023).

• According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress in 2022, on a scale of Below, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced, 33% of 4th grade students in the US scored as proficient or advanced in reading proficiency. (NAEP, 2022).



(Heacox & Cash, pg. 49, 2020)

Action: I believe that differentiation is an equitable way to provide a pathway to academic achievement for students of all levels of cognitive ability. I have personally witnessed the benefits of differentiation, supported by overwhelming data from research conducted by accredited and respected institutions and organizations. I will work to build personal relationships with each of my students to understand their cultural backgrounds, strengths, weaknesses, and personal interests to strengthen my ability to tailor instruction for each of my students. I plan to implement a variety of technological tools, group work, and project-based learning to help support both struggling and high achieving learners. The final element is to help students grow socially and emotionally and develop an understanding of self worth.



SOURCES



SCAN ME!

