Module Home



**Outline­**

**Classroom Diversity**:

An Introduction to Student Differences

* Module Description: This module offers a broad overview of how diversity (i.e., culture, language, exceptionality, and socioeconomic status) affects learning and how teachers can better meet the needs of all their students in their classes (est. completion time: 1 hour).

Challenge

* Video: Ms. Christie—a history instructor at Chester Himes Middle…

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Initial Thoughts

* Is it important to acknowledge students’ diversity in classroom settings? Why or why not?
* What should teachers understand in order to address student diversity in their classrooms?

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Perspectives & Resources

* Module Objectives
* Describe the diversity of students in today’s classrooms
* List five ways in which diversity influences student learning
* Identify considerations for teaching in a diverse classroom

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* Page 1: Introduction to Diversity
* Students in our nation’s classrooms today are more diverse than ever…
* Consider the following statistics… [bullet points]

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* Page 2: Influence on Teacher Perceptions
* *Teacher perceptions*—the thoughts or mental images teachers have…
* Video: Watch the *First Thoughts/Digging Deeper* movie below…
* Why Perceptions Matter
  + Expectations: High/Low [table]
  + Research Shows
  + Activity

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* Page 3: Cultural Diversity
* When we use the word culture, we are generally referring to…
* Why Culture Matters
  + Cultural dissonance escalating… [drop-down menu]
* Making a Difference in the Classroom
  + Teachers are culturally responsive when… [bullet points]
  + For Your Information

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* Page 4: Linguistic Diversity
* Teachers lead classrooms with a mix of students who may be fluent in…
* Why Language Matters
  + Video: To get a better sense of what these students might be…
  + For more information about BICS and CALP… [drop-down menu]
  + Audio: Janette Klingner talks about some common…
* What Teachers Can Do
  + Sheltered Instruction [drop-down menu]
  + Contextual Supports [drop-down menu]
  + Activate Background Knowledge [drop-down menu]
  + Teach Vocabulary [drop-down menu]
  + Teach Comprehension Strategies [drop-down menu]
  + Differentiate Instruction [drop-down menu]
  + Provide Opportunities for Practice [drop-down menu]
  + Link: Teaching English Language Learners: Effective Instructional Practices [IRIS Module]
  + Link: Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students [IRIS Module]
  + Link: Diversity: Understanding Sheltered Instruction [IRIS Activity]
  + Audio: Janette Klingner discusses the use of evidence-based…
  + Research Shows
  + Something to Consider
  + Audio: Diane Torres-Velasquez explains why this belief is false…

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* Page 5: Exceptionalities
* The term *exceptionalities* in K–12 schooling refers to…
* These are… [bullet points]
  + Link: intellectual disability [definition]
* Special Education Jargon at a Glance
  + Link: free appropriate public education (FAPE) [definition]
  + Link: least restrictive environment (LRE) [definition]
  + Link: related services [definition]
  + Link: accommodations [definition]
  + Link: modifications [definition]
  + Link: individualized education program (IEP) [definition]
* Why Exceptionalities Matter
* What Teachers Can Do
  + Link: assistive technology [definition]
  + Link: accommodations [definition]
  + Link: modifications [definition]
  + Link: differentiated instruction [definition]
  + Link: Universal Design for Learning [definition]
  + Link: Universal Design for Learning: Creating a Learning Environment That Challenges and Engages All Students [IRIS Module]
  + Link: Differentiated Instruction: Maximizing the Learning of All Students [IRIS Module]
  + Link: Accommodations: Instructional and Testing Supports for Students with Disabilities [IRIS Module]
  + Link: Assistive Technology: An Overview [IRIS Module]
  + Audio: Ginger Blalock discusses some key considerations…
  + Audio: Ginger Blalock discusses some key considerations…

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* Page 6: Socioeconomic Factors
* Just as students will have varied cultural backgrounds…
* Students from low-SES families typically… [bullet points]
* Did You Know?
* Why SES Matters
  + Audio: Listen as Lanette Waddell, former Director of Teaching…
  + Audio: Listen as Dolores Battle discusses the relationship…
  + For Your Information
* What Teachers Can Do
  + Create a structured and well-managed… [drop-down menu]
  + Provide a safe and nurturing environment [drop-down menu]
  + Use evidence-based practices [drop-down menu]
  + Motivate and engage students [drop-down menu]
  + Support students [drop-down menu]
  + Involve families [drop-down menu]
  + Activity
    - Audio: Richard Milner provides some insights into…
    - Audio: Richard Milner discusses how teachers might…

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| NOTES |  |

* Page 7: References & Additional Resources
* Suggested module citation
* References
* Additional Resources
* Page 8: Credits
* Module Developers
* Module Production Team
* Media

Wrap Up

* Summary of the module
* Diversity/What Teachers Should Understand [table]
* Audio: Lanette Waddell, former Director of Teaching and Learning…
* Revisit your Initial Thoughts responses

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Assessment

* Take some time now to answer the following questions.

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You Have Completed This Module

* We Value Your Feedback
  + Link: Module Feedback Form
* Professional Development Hours
  + Link: IRIS PD Options
* Related Resources [links]