

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

Use this outline to follow along with the module's main features. The blank "Notes" panels below each section are interactive and can be filled in using Adobe Acrobat. Otherwise, print this document and record your notes by hand.

Module Home

- **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).
- *STAR Legacy Cycle*
- **Related to This Module**
 - Link: Module Outline
 - Video: Navigating an IRIS *STAR Legacy* Module
 - Link: IRIS and Adult Learning Theory
 - Wrap-Around Content Map

Challenge

- **Video:** Ms. Christie—a history instructor at Chester Himes Middle School—is playing private detective this week. She's trying to solve the mystery of why her lessons, so effective at her old school, seem to be falling flat with her students at Himes.

Notes

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?

Notes

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

Perspectives & Resources

❖ Module Objectives

- After completing the entire Perspectives & Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should be able to:
 - 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
- This IRIS Module aligns with the following licensure and program standards and topic areas...

Notes

❖ Page 1: Introduction to Diversity

- Student diversity in statistics [bullet points]
- Schools in suburban and rural areas

Notes

❖ Page 2: Influence of Teacher Perceptions

- Teacher perceptions are shaped by their background knowledge and life experiences
- Video: First Thoughts/Digging Deeper
- Why perceptions matter
 - Jill
 - High Expectations/Low Expectations
- Link: Student diversity data
- Research Shows [bullet points]
- Activity: Answer some questions about teacher perceptions

Notes

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

❖ Page 3: Cultural Diversity

- “Culture”
- Why Culture Matters
 - Cultural dissonance
 - Revisiting the Challenge
- Making a Difference in the Classroom
 - Teachers are culturally responsive when they... [bullet points]
 - Note to Teachers
- FYI [bullet points]

Notes

❖ Page 4: Linguistic Diversity

- English language learners
- Languages spoken by today’s students [chart]
- Change in ELL enrollment in schools [graph]
- Why Language Matters
- Video: A teacher lectures in Portuguese
- Try to translate the sentences [numbered items]
- Note to Teachers
 - Link: BICS and CALP
- Audio: Janette Klingner talks about some common misperceptions teachers have about English language learners
- What Teachers Can Do
 - Effective supports and strategies [drop-down menus]
 - For more information, view the following IRIS resources...
- Audio: Janette Klingner discusses the use of evidence-based practices with ELLs
- Research Shows [bullet points]
- Did You Know?
 - Audio: Diane Torres-Velásquez describes a false belief and explains what teachers need to consider when teaching mathematics

Notes

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

❖ Page 5: Exceptionalities

- IDEA '04 disability categories [bullet points]
- Special Education Jargon at a Glance
 - Link: FAPE [definition]
 - Link: LRE [definition]
 - Link: related services [definition]
 - Link: accommodations [definition]
 - Link: modifications [definition]
 - Link: IEP [definition]
- Why Exceptionalities Matter
 - Revisiting the Challenge
- What Teachers Can Do
 - Specific supports in the form of accommodations, modifications, or assistive technology
 - Link: assistive technology [definition]
 - Link: accommodations and modifications [definition]
 - Link: differentiated instruction [definition]
 - Link: Universal Design for Learning [definition]
- For more information, view the following IRIS resources...
- Audio: Ginger Blalock discusses some key considerations for students with disabilities

Notes

❖ Page 6: Socioeconomic Factors

- Socioeconomic status
 - It is important for teachers to understand the connection between SES and student outcomes [bullet points]
- Did You Know?
- Why SES Matters
 - Potential Challenges Related to SES [bullet points]
- Audio: Lanette Waddell explains why teachers should understand that students from low-SES backgrounds often have an independent mindset that can cause tension in the classroom
- Audio: Dolores Battle discusses the relationship between language and behavior
- FYI
- What Teachers Can Do
 - Teacher objectives [drop-down menus]
- Audio: Dolores Battle discusses the importance of language for developing literacy and what

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

teachers can do to support students' learning

- Activity: What are your perceptions about the students in the scenario?
 - Audio: Rich Milner provides some insights into this situation and how teachers might address similar situations

Notes

❖ Page 7: References & Additional Resources

- Suggested module citation
- References
- Additional Resources
- Acknowledgments

❖ Page 8: Credits

- Suggested module citation
- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Media Production Team
- Media
- Expert Interviews
- Acknowledgments

Wrap Up

- Summary of the module
- Audio: Lanette Waddell suggests ways that teachers can better get to know their students
- Revisit your Initial Thoughts responses

Notes

Classroom Diversity: An Introduction to Student Differences

Assessment

- Complete the numbered questions. Please note that the IRIS Center does not collect your Assessment responses. If this is a course assignment, you should turn them in to your professor using whatever method he or she requires.

Notes

You Have Completed This Module

- Give Us Your Feedback
 - Link: [Module feedback survey form](#)
- Professional Development Hours
 - Link: [IRIS PD Options](#)
- Related Resources [[links](#)]