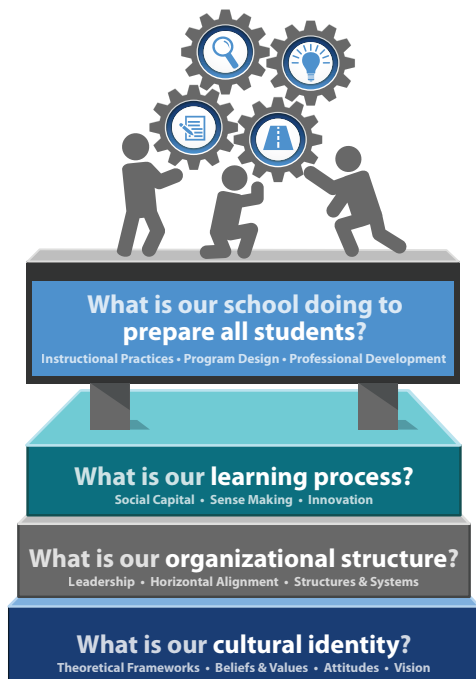


Unpacking “all” students



Timing: 35 minutes to start the conversation, Approximately 1-4 hours for a deeper conversation



Purpose

At the top of the School Success Model, we ask the question “What is our school doing to prepare ALL students?” Many times in education we create programs and strategies with the idea and hope that we are serving all students. We struggle to serve a variety of students either because we don’t know how or what approaches to use and sometimes we simply aren’t explicit enough about the ALL and what that really means. In the following activity we are going to unpack the word “all” in order to examine what we mean and how to design educational approaches that can get us closer to “all” students. This activity is only the start of what is meant to be a deeper conversation in your building.



Process

1. Please take a piece of chart paper and make a list of your students based on the following prompts. It’s important to be very specific:

When we say “all” students who do we mean?:

- Racially? (What racial groups are represented in your school?)
- Geographically? (Where are students from? What is their geography like? Where are they from?)
- Economically? (What variety of socioeconomic groups are represented?)
- Ethnically? (What ethnic groups are represented in your school?)
- From a gendered perspective? (What gender representations are present in your school? Which might be?)
- From an ability perspective? (What type of diversity exists physically, cognitively and developmentally at your school?)
- From a social perspective? (How do students organize themselves socially at your school? (Athletics, theatre, skate culture, leadership, ESL, and so forth.)
- Linguistically? (What languages are spoken at your school?)
- From a family perspective? (What kinds of family structures are represented in your school?)

Think from a historical perspective about who has been a part of the “all” discussion in the past. Has it grown or changed?

The challenge then, if we want to say we are serving all students, is to develop programs that encompass all of these categories. The hope is that this will bring a clearer focus to what is meant by all and that you will make strategic decisions from that perspective, understanding that there is no single strategy that can cross all cultural/ demographic categories.

2. Now take some time to reflect and ask yourselves the following questions.

- Examining the lists you created, which groups are being best served within your current school system?
- Who is being underserved by your current approaches and what are the unintended consequences?
- What strategies are you using now that come close to serving the needs of “all” students, and are they culturally relevant?

We encourage you to use this protocol as part of your decision making process with your administrative team, staff, students, and families.



Notes

A large rectangular area with a light blue background and a repeating pattern of small white hexagons, intended for taking notes.