

Definitions of Success

What does success look like?

- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it happy, well-rounded students who are engaged in meaningful learning experiences?
- How personalized can/should learning be?

These are questions we must ask and debate more frequently! The Board and Administration are committed to hosting this dialogue.

3.22.2013

Hi Kris –

I hope it's no secret that for some years now a number of us here in IUFSD have pressed for higher individual student achievement (*every child, every day*) and for greater school accountability in pursuing that goal.

To my mind, Richard DuFour's work at Adlai Stevenson High School is the model, but if there are other approaches that work – terrific.

Given our district's recent history, I feel it's important to respond to Slide 4 in the Superintendent's Proposed Budget presentation of 3.5.2013.

Slide 4 asks residents to define success. That may be a useful question to ask, but the wording biases the answer toward "learning experiences" in opposition to "Ivy League acceptances" – precisely the philosophy that caused parents and taxpayers to question district practices in the first place.

Eliminate the biased language, and the difference is striking.

Academic achievement and happiness are not opposed, and should not be pitted against each other in a district "conversation." For most students, not to mention most parents and most taxpayers, academic achievement and happiness in school are intimately related.

If you want to see a happy teenager, talk to a senior who's been accepted by the college he or she hoped to attend. Doing well in school is not the only path to a happy life, but it's an important path, and it's a path district residents value highly.

Thanks!

Catherine Johnson
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Definitions of Success

original wording

What does success look like?

- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it happy, well-rounded students who are engaged in meaningful learning experiences?

source:
Superintendent's Proposed Budget
March 5, 2013

Definitions of Success

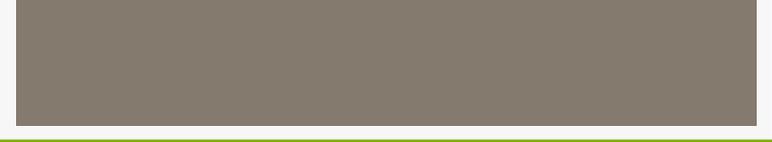
What does success look like?

- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances?
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- How personalized can/should learning be?

non-neutral wording

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What the questions look like
with neutral wording

Definitions of Success

non-neutral language highlighted

What does success look like?

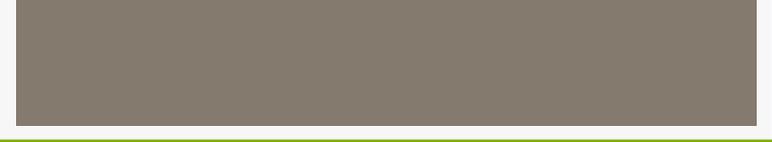
- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it ~~happy, well-rounded~~ students who are engaged in ~~meaningful~~ learning experiences?

Definitions of Success (revised)

evaluative adjectives removed

What does success look like?

- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it students who are engaged in learning experiences?



What the questions look like with non-neutral adjectives added to the 2nd option

Definitions of Success

What does success look like?

- Is it ^{enriching} AP classes and ^{deeply gratifying} Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it happy, well-rounded students who are engaged in meaningful learning experiences?
- How personalized can/should learning be?

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Definitions of Success (revised)

evaluative adjectives added

What does success look like?

- Is it enriching AP classes and gratifying Ivy League acceptances?
- Is it happy, well-rounded students who are engaged in meaningful learning experiences?

The debate many of us have been waiting for

The first three questions on the next slide originate with Richard DuFour. The fourth was added by someone else.

The four questions

1. What is it we expect students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when they have not learned it?
4. How will we respond when students already know it?

Richard DuFour

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IUFSD taxpayers are committed to hosting this dialogue.

the answers...

Definitions of Success

What does success look like?

- Is it AP classes and Ivy League acceptances? **yes**
- Is it happy, well-rounded students who are engaged in meaningful learning experiences? **yes**
- How personalized can/should learning be?

Whole-class learning is more effective than individual learning on Chromebooks

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