

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL MEANS
EACH AND EVERY

ONE



Thompson Teaching and Learning

Schools Attuned

Schools Attuned is a process of search and discovery of a student's learning strengths. This approach offers educators new methods for recognizing, understanding, and managing students who struggle with learning. It involves a commitment by educators, parents and students to understand and use the neuron-developmental strengths the students possess to make them successful at school and beyond. Together, using data, they break down the barriers and "demystify" individual learning strengths and weaknesses.

The goal is to equip both students and educators with new knowledge, skills, and strategies so that appropriate judgments can be made about instructional practices with learners. Schools Attuned is a year-long professional development program for K-12 education. It has two pathways: General for the elementary grades and Subject Specialist, for secondary levels

Teachers at all levels are reflecting on the most current, research-based principles of professional development that change teaching practices and have a positive impact on student outcomes. *Continued on next page*

Characteristics of Schools Attuned

- Provides in-depth process for identifying student learning styles
- Helps identify areas where students can improve
- Provides comprehensive support and follow-up to educators
- Involves one-on-one conversations with students
- Involves educators, parents, clinicians, and the student himself in the problem-solving process
- Uses common terminology to help "demystify" the educational process
- Includes a child's special interests in an individualized learning plan that can both motivate and help through or around a learning difficulty
- Aligns with other approaches used within the district

MATH AND LITERACY ARE THE KEYS THAT OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD AROUND US

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Schools Attuned embraces the philosophy and principles Dr. Mel Levine and of All Kinds of Minds, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding of differences in learning. According to Dr. Levine, "this (program) sets out to diminish that shared confusion, to enable all concerned to construct a better understanding of the reason for an individual child's exasperating and often futile struggles to keep pace and feel effective."

What you will see in class:

- Students working one-on-one with teacher to identify areas of strength and weakness
- Individual plans and work habits that may look different from others
- Student access to various resources and tools to assist with different learning needs
- Lack of labeling students
- Teachers who have tools and strategies readily available
- Common language from grade to grade and level to level

Keys to success:

- Provides Parent Toolkit Web pages to provide a better understanding of learning processes, insights into difficulties, strategies for responding to difficulties and resources for learning more.
- Strengthens professional teaching practice through reflection, feedback, analytical work and use of technology
- Involves follow-up and support from the Schools Attuned Program
- Empowers students and educators through analysis and sharing of student learning needs, support and success stories
- Engages educators, students and parents in formulating new strategies to positively affect the students

For more information, visit www.schoolsattuned.org.