



Multi-Level Classes: Vision and Stories

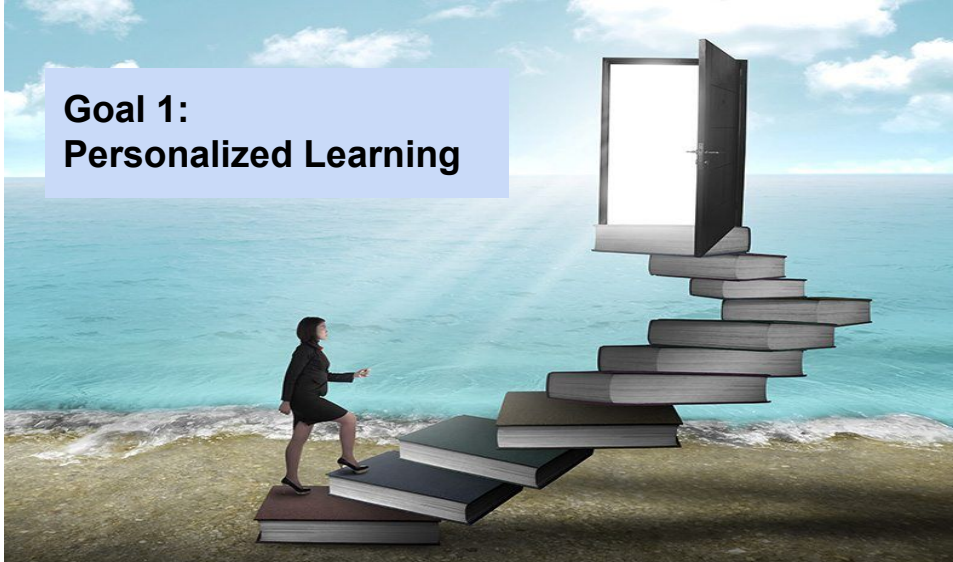
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**Goal 1:
Personalized Learning**



**Goal 2:
Global Citizenship**



**Goal 3:
Social & Emotional**

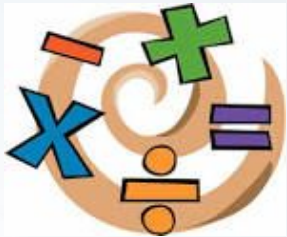


**Goal 4:
Equity**

Which courses are/will be multi-level ?

Current Multi-Level Classes

- 7th grade math
- 8th grade algebra I
- 9th grade algebra II
- World History



Additional Multi-Level Classes

- Biology
- Language Arts



How do multi-level classes meet the goals?



Provides flexibility in learning, enabling teachers to meet students where they are

Maximizes the benefits of divergent thinking



Removes barriers that naturally occur in groupings

Supports transition from 8th into 9th grade



Social emotional benefits for all learners

Increases representation of underrepresented groups in honors courses



Provides equitable & inclusive educational opportunities

How do multi-level classrooms work?

Multi-Level Classrooms



How do multi-level classrooms work?

Consistent for all students:

- NJ Standards & curricula
- College prep & Honors in same classroom
- Student choice & access to learning
- High quality instruction for all students
- Differentiated learning
- Frequent check-ins to support learning
- Learning community where every student belongs

Components that may vary student to student:

- Assessments
- Resources
- Complexity of text sets or tasks
- Depth of content and analysis
- Products that reflect their learning
- Groupings are flexible within the classroom
- GPA weight

What are the benefits of multi-level classes?

- **Helps reduce the negative effects of tracking**
- Keeps doors open for students regarding scheduling
- **Provides teachers talking points for helping students schedule 10th grade classes**
- Allows all students to stretch their thinking when exposed to more complex tasks
- Allows students to start where they feel comfortable & build confidence
- Increased creativity & innovation
- Increased academic achievement
- Maximizes benefits of divergent thinking
- Enhanced cognitive skills for all students
- Flexibility in experiences
- **Student choice- more engagement**
- Individualized learning opportunities
- Improved communication skills

More Benefits

- Increased empathy and social awareness
- Improved social skills
- Enhanced self-esteem
- **Increased risk-taking in learning**
- Increased motivation & engagement
- **Increased sense of belonging**
- Increased access to high-level content & expectations for students in underrepresented groups
- **Better preparation for real world**
- Greater sense of community

What are the benefits of multi-level classes?

Multi-Level Classrooms

Describe the benefits of multi-level classes for students



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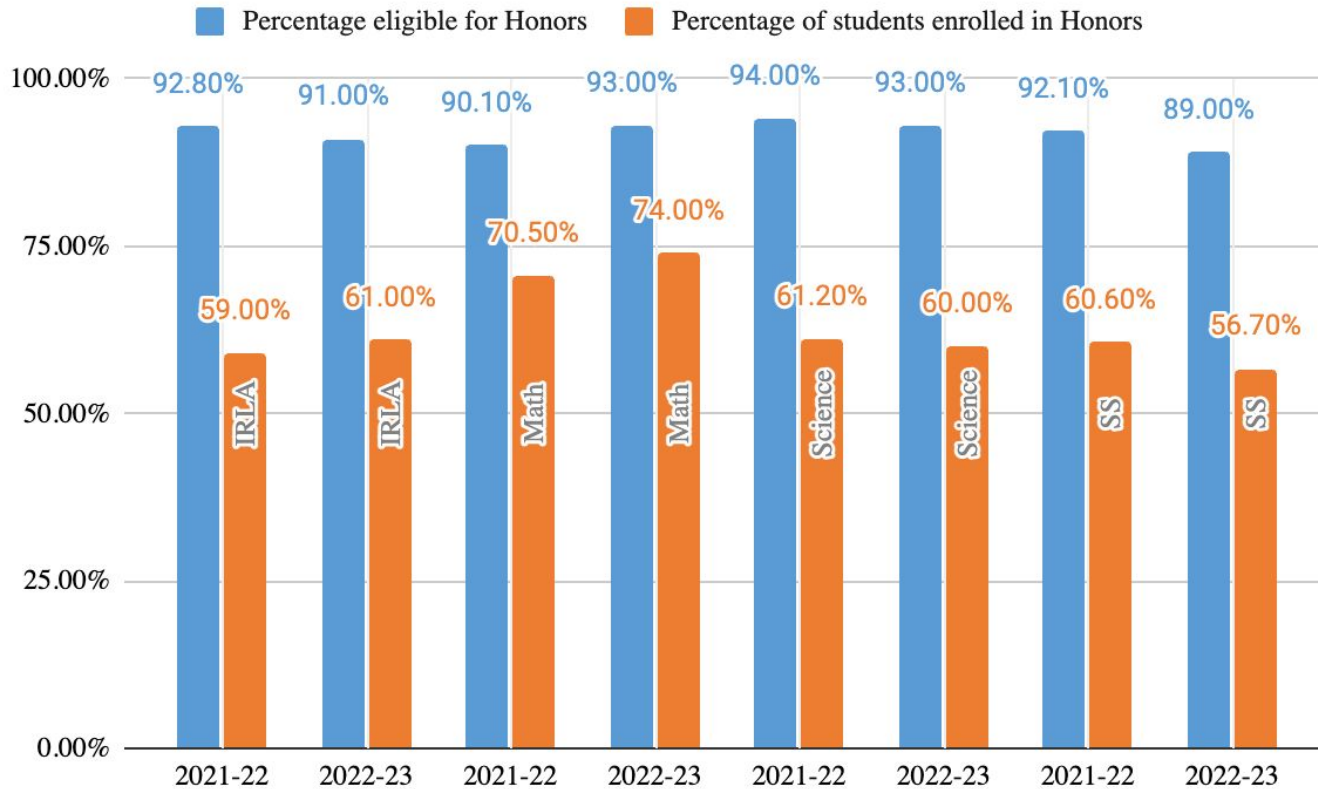


What does the research say?

In their meta-analysis, **Terrin and Triventi (2022)** examined the the purported benefits of homogeneous grouping on overall student achievement and the possible negative impact on equity. What did this analysis reveal?

- **First, the impact of homogeneous grouping on student achievement “is null”** – in other words, the supposed efficiency of grouping secondary students by achievement, attitudes, and interests does not produce a higher overall level of student achievement, nor does it result in lower overall achievement. There’s no measurable difference.
- **Second, the meta-analysis found that homogeneous grouping has a negative impact on equity.** The research evidence, say Terrin and Triventi, “provides no support for the existence of an ‘equality-efficiency trade-off’ – that is, the need to sacrifice equality to improve the overall performance of the educational system. Instead, this finding suggests that the stream of literature that emphasizes how tracking negatively impacts student achievement dispersion and inequality of opportunity.
- The authors acknowledge that teaching students in heterogeneous groups at the secondary level is pedagogically challenging and educators need to be nimble and innovative to help all students learn at high levels.

Student Eligibility



This bar graph illustrates the percentage of students in 8th grade across the district eligible for honors in Language Arts, Math, Science and SS compared to the percentage of students enrolled in honors in 9th grade for the past two years.

Student Feedback

“When we learn new material, we can start at the same level and have access to the same resources. I can build my confidence and understanding of the skill before solving the more complex problems.”

Q: What does a multi level class look like?

“We have a number sense routine, then a lesson on a skill we all learn. After that, we can choose where we feel comfortable starting and we work together to practice.”

“We work together in different groups or with partners and help each other. Since we all learn the content, we can all help each other.”

Q: How are students grouped?

“We don't really know who is in honors or college prep. Everyone has access to the resources and can choose to do the challenge questions.”

“We learn the same skills, but for honors, we go more in depth in the content and have more complex problems.”

Q: What is the difference between honors and college prep?

“In my other classes, it's about how the class is doing. In this class it's about me and how I am doing.”

Student Success Stories

Multi-Level
Classrooms

Describe a success story
from your classroom



9:10 / 10:28



How is this work communicated to families?

- Program of Studies Presentations
- Back to School Nights
- 8th Grade/9th Grade PTSA Coffee with the Principals
- PTSA meetings at both high schools
- PTSA Executive Board Meeting
- BOE May 2023

What are the next steps?

- Creation of FAQ with logistics and operating procedures to be available
- Continually monitor student progress
- Continued teacher professional development & training
 - Summer Institute for teachers
 - Curriculum writing
 - Classroom visits
 - Ongoing professional development plan for staff
 - Hosted several teacher panels
 - Collecting and sharing student feedback
 - Teacher Resource Specialists to support teachers

Questions?