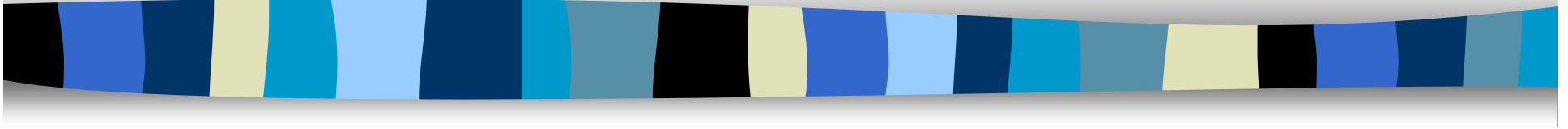


The Achievement Gap, Opportunities and Specialization



Student State Advisory Council on
Education Subcommittee



The Achievement Gap

- Academic achievement isn't the only way to succeed
- Shift focus to learning how to learn and work hard
- Students who are not engaged by current curriculum should be given opportunities to gain these skills in other areas



Solutions for The Achievement Gap

- Allow students who aren't capable of higher achievement to get hands on training in a manual or other profession and get a GED and professional certificate
- Diplomas should indicate a higher level of achievement and courses in a number of subjects
- However, care must be taken not to create a stigmatized group



Keep Basic Standards

- ❑ Students should not graduate with less than the ability to do basic math (computation), how to read (at 6th grade level), how to write a basic functional essay
- ❑ Other than that, focus for lower level classes should be on skills you would need to function in our society.
- ❑ Examples: working with other people, time management, perseverance, how to learn



Opportunities and Specialization

- Offer increased opportunities to pursue non-academic and outside interests without jeopardizing schooling.
- Especially towards high school, traditional academics can become rote
- Learning outside the classroom as an alternative



Possibilities

- Have programs for seniors who meet certain requirements to take additional opportunities out of school, either in one field or multiple.
- Encourage students to broaden scope of experience
- Offer opportunities for people who know what they want to do and those who don't know
- Trading resources and classes b/w schools.



Improving Access

- A variety of courses in a number of disciplines at various times
- A variety of levels of difficulty in courses
- Job training for professions
- Supplemental programs like internships or explorations
- Provide backup for students doing courses and programs at other schools if not available at your school