**Schools Attuned + Differentiated Instruction**

* A Higher Quality Learning Experience

Schools Attuned and Differentiated Instruction represent complementary approaches to teaching and learning. Used together, they provide educators with powerful tools for helping students achieve success in school.

Students arrive in today’s classrooms with a wide range of strengths, weaknesses and interests. Both Schools Attuned and Differentiated Instruction equip teachers to maximize students growth by understanding their learning needs, meeting them where they are, and helping them to progress.

Schools Attuned and Differentiated Instruction work in tandem to:

- create a climate that honors differences
- provide an understanding of students as learners
- support the practice of utilizing instructional and assessment techniques that address a variety of learning profiles

**AS INDEPENDENT APPROACHES**

Differentiated Instruction* supports a quality learning experience by providing the tools and techniques for adapting one’s instructional planning based on student readiness, interest, and preferred ways of learning. The aim is to help students progress along the continuum toward more complex thinking, understanding, skills, and application of concepts. A differentiated approach provides instruction about a concept that acknowledges the strengths and weaknesses of the child, assuring opportunities for success while allowing room for growth.

Elements of a differentiated classroom environment include:

- Acceptance of and respect for similarities and differences
- Targeted instruction based on student needs provided through a variety of instructional strategies
- Collaboration among teachers and students in setting goals
- Coordination of learning opportunities that support students in becoming self-reliant learners
- Participation in respectful work that is challenging, meaningful, interesting and engaging
- On-going diagnostic assessment that guides instruction
- Student choice about topics to study, ways to work, and how to demonstrate learning
- Multiple forms of assessment with each student’s progress measured at least in part from where that student begins

The Schools Attuned Program is a research-based professional development program that enhances understanding of students’ learning profiles and provides the knowledge, tools, and skills needed to help frustrated students break through barriers to success – and reclaim the joy in learning. With a new framework of knowledge and tools to support student learning:

Teachers…
- Gain expertise in differences in learning
- Make instructional decisions based on a neurodevelopmental understanding of the curriculum and of students as learners
- Leverage students’ strengths and interests as pathways to school success
- Collaborate around student learning using a neurodevelopmental understanding

Students…
- Understand their strengths, weaknesses, and interests
- Actively engage in their learning
- Build confidence in their abilities
- Achieve success as learners

Schools…
- Strengthen culture and climate through a respect for neurodevelopmental diversity
- Build alliances with families to support student learning
- Incorporate a neurodevelopmental approach into their policies and practices

Schools Attuned Enhances the Implementation of Differentiated Instruction by:
- Providing more specific information about how students learn to inform differentiated instruction choices
- Actively engaging students in understanding their unique learning profiles so they can make effective decisions about learning and assessment opportunities
- Supporting the effective differentiation of learning experiences and assessments based on a deeper understanding of the learning process
- Providing a framework for understanding the neurodevelopmental demands involved in differentiating instruction (e.g., concrete vs. abstract, fewer facets vs. more facets)