



Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429

Personalized Learning

As part of a District goal to research personalized learning in an effort to better understand what changes in our current practices would need to occur to meet the ever demanding learning needs of our students, we are making distinctions and connections between differentiation, individualized learning, and personalized learning. This document is meant to clearly illustrate differentiation, individualized learning, and personalized learning so that our educational community has a better grasp as we continue our research. This document is broken up into two sections with a final summary statement. The first section explains each of these pedagogical constructs. The second section provides distinctions and connections between the pedagogical constructs.

What are we talking about?

Differentiation

- Differentiation maximizes learning through the utilization of adaptation to learning styles and preferences of a variety of students. The learning goal remains the same for all students, however the method of instruction varies in order to address the needs of all students at varying levels within a single classroom.

Individualized learning

- Individualized learning maximizes learning by utilizing teacher created lessons geared towards an individual learner, rather than a group of students. The learning goals remain the same for all students, however students can progress through the curriculum at different speeds based on each individual student's mastery of the content.

Personalized learning

- Personalized learning maximizes the learning and motivation of students through the utilization of student choice, collaborative design, connections of learning to student pursuits, and student autonomy. This is directly implemented using clearly created goals and outcomes, student self-reflection, and valuable teacher feedback utilizing flexible learning environments and pacing.

Distinctions and connections

So, how are these constructs similar?

All of these constructs focus on altering traditional whole class instruction to meet the needs of the learners in the classroom. Differentiation, individualized learning, and personalized learning also call for attention to the individual student when designing instructional opportunities for students. A final similarity is that each construct focuses all students on the same learning goal(s).

Now how are these constructs different?

Differentiation focuses almost solely on the how of instruction, while individualized learning is more focused on the when of instruction. Personalized learning blends the two while incorporating a collaborative approach towards setting clear goals and outcomes for the learning experiences of each student. There is more student autonomy with personalized learning as the student has a more active role in the entire learning experience. Flexibility by the student and teacher is a key factor with personalized learning.

Summary

As we continue to research personalized learning, understanding and making connections to what we already know and practice becomes ever more important. This document is a good starting point to our continued understanding of what personalized learning might look like at HBR. We will continue to research and hone our understanding in the 2017-2018 school year as we work toward identifying the possible wins and “not yet’s” related to future personalized learning tasks for implementation.