

HIGH-EXPECTATIONS TEACHING: "Smart is Something You Can Get"



"...my students hear every message I send—whether overt or implied—about their capacity to learn and succeed."

- Carol Ann Tomlinson, 2015

For students to believe that "Smart is Something You Can Get" (Jeff Howard, 1986), they must hear that we believe in their capacity to learn.

We will alternately call this belief and knowing how to act from it a belief in "Malleable Ability", meaning ability can be altered; "Effort-Based Ability", meaning one's ability to do something is based on the effort extended to build it; and "Growth Mindset", meaning believing one can grow one's ability.

They also need to be in an environment where teachers' everyday behaviors send the following messages:

- What we're doing is important.
- You can do it.
- And I'm not going to give up on you.

These messages don't get delivered by osmosis, cheerleading, or signage. They get delivered by what a teacher says and does. It is not a matter of personality but it is a matter of behavior. This program teaches what it looks like and sounds like when a teacher acts authentically from a growth mindset.

The program, which is based on the most current research, delves more deeply into concepts introduced in the RBT programs, "Studying Skillful Teaching" and "Analyzing Teaching for Student Results," but these courses are not prerequisites.

AUDIENCE

K-12 Teachers

K-12 Leaders including instructional coaches and administrators

OUTCOMES

Participants will learn how to choose language, develop classroom structures, and use effective instructional strategies to motivate all students, but particularly to get low-performing, low-confidence students to change their stereotype about themselves.

Students will:

- Believe effort is the main determinant of success
- Learn how to exert effective effort
- Decide to invest in school
- Feel empowered in their learning
- Achieve more

FORMAT

- Participants will increase their capacity through videos of live classroom teaching, readings, role plays, and discussion.
- They will share stories of their experiments in student motivation with colleagues.
- Each participant will apply the skills of the course comprehensively to one student as a case study to transform that student's approach to school and to achievement.

37.5 Hour Program

Participants completing all program requirements can receive optionally three graduate credits through Fitchburg State University.

