

GAP CLOSURE TOOLKIT

INTRODUCTION

There is absolutely no doubt that each student can learn, grow a stronger brain, and become more intelligent. We give you the tools to share that belief with everyone in your school community and ready-to-use activities and resources to close the gap for all students.

Before we select a strategy/practice to include in our toolkits and workshops, we make sure it:

- Is supported by science
- Makes common sense
- Is not detrimental to children
- Is doable in Kentucky schools
- Doesn't require buying an expensive program
- Includes actions that can be taken immediately



Closing the achievement gap is an urgent issue; we can't let any more students down! There are successful schools across the country, which have proven it's possible to close the achievement gap. It has been done, so that means no more excuses!

USING THE TOOLKIT:

Educating human beings is an extremely rewarding and complex process. No one has all the answers for closing the gap, because there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. Students, educators, schools, and communities are all different. It's **not** our intention or expectation that a teacher or a school work on every section in the kit. The intention is to provide a variety of resources so educators can choose the practices/strategies that address the needs of their students.

Requirement for success with this toolkit

1) **Non-Negotiable Actions**

All the adults in the school need to complete the Non-Negotiable Actions activities in Section 1 of *Making the Commitment and Getting Started*.

2) **Redefining Intelligence** and **Understanding the Brain, Learning, and Memory**

All shareholders in the school community need to understand these concepts. The school council, administrators, teachers, students, and parents should work together to determine what the various groups already know and what they still need to learn.

Whatever you do...don't get overwhelmed, choose where to focus and just go for it!

Don't choose to do nothing to close the gap, just because you can't do everything.