

## Achievement Gaps: An Introduction

In this six-lesson course, we will consider the multiple causes for gaps in achievement, explore issues that ready children for learning, and consider how to enhance a child's readiness to learn. We'll also explore what it means to strive for equity in achievement by considering the types of learning environments that promote student achievement, as well as ways that we can measure student achievement.

Perhaps no issue in education today causes more distress, yet inspires more determination, than what has been called the "achievement gap." We've all seen the statistics regarding this gap, statistics that reveal deep divisions in our society. For example,

- Children from high-poverty environments face higher rates of health problems, including poor nutrition, which hinders learning (Vail, 2004).
- Thirty percent of students who attend urban schools live in poverty (Vail, 2004).
- Many states provide the least funding to the schools with the greatest number of poor students (Carter, 2002).

In this course, we'll explore what it means to strive for equity in achievement by considering such essential questions as

- What do we mean when we talk about achievement, and how can we measure it?
- In what kind of learning environment can all students achieve?

### Course Objectives

After completing the course, you should be able to

- Consider the multiple causes for gaps in achievement.
- Define achievement.
- Consider how to enhance a child's readiness to learn.

## Course Syllabus

<p><b>Module 1</b></p>	<p><b>No Easy Solutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• No Easy Solutions</li> <li>• Accountability Systems</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 1A</li> <li>• Question 1A</li> <li>• Interactivity 1A</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 1A</li> <li>• Interactivity 1B</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 1B</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 2</b></p>	<p><b>Looking at How We Learn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Looking At How We Learn</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 2A</li> <li>• Multimedia 2A</li> <li>• Question 2A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 3</b></p>	<p><b>Redefining Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Redefining Achievement</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 3A</li> <li>• Multimedia 3A</li> <li>• Question 3A</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 3B</li> <li>• Multimedia 3B</li> <li>• Question 3B</li> <li>• Interactivity 3A</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 3A</li> <li>• Interactivity 3B</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 3B</li> </ul>

<p><b>Module 4</b></p>	<p><b>Evaluating Achievement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Evaluating Achievement</li> <li>• Scientifically Based Research</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 4A</li> <li>• Multimedia 4A</li> <li>• Question 4A</li> <li>• Interactivity 4A</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 4A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 5</b></p>	<p><b>Closing the Achievement Gap: A Success Story</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Closing the Achievement Gap: A Success Story</li> <li>• Academic Success</li> <li>• Interactivity 5A</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 5A</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 6</b></p>	<p><b>Taking Action!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• A Three-Pronged Approach</li> <li>• Family Literacy and Learning</li> <li>• Multimedia Activity 6A</li> <li>• Multimedia 6A</li> <li>• Question 6A</li> <li>• Coordinated School Health Program</li> <li>• Interactivity 6A</li> <li>• Interactivity Question 6A</li> </ul>

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