

Blended Classrooms: Heterogeneous Grouping vs. Ability Grouping

Research Findings Suggest:

Ability grouping has little effect on average achievement. (Slavin, 1990) *Achievement Effects of Ability Grouping in Secondary Schools: A Best Evidence Synthesis*. (Kulick and Kulick, 1982) *Effects of Ability Grouping on Secondary Students: A Meta-Analysis of Evaluation Findings*.

Research indicates that high-track classes bring students an academic benefit while low-track classes are associated with lower subsequent student achievement. Achievement gaps widen over time between low and high-achieving students in a tracked environment. (Burris, Wiley, et al., 2008)

Accelerated learning rather than remediation is the best method of improving the achievement of struggling, at-risk students. (Levin, 1997)

There is evidence to suggest that high achievers continue to perform well even when placed in classes with lower-performing students. (Burris, Wiley, et al, 2008) *Accountability, Rigor and Detracking: Achievement Effects of Embracing a Challenging Curriculum As a Universal Good for All Students*.

Enrolling students in more rigorous courses is not, in itself, enough to raise student achievement. Successful curricular reform and implementation must prepare students across the skill distribution and teachers must attend to classroom peer dynamics. (Domina, Penner and Conley, 2012) *Does Detracking Work? Evidence from a Mathematics Curricular Reform*.

Students who were enrolled in mixed ability learning environments reported that friendships were fostered and positive connections across different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds were made and persisted outside the classroom. (Morris, 2001) *A Qualitative Investigation of Interdisciplinary Mixed Ability Co-Operative Classes in an Inner-Ring Suburban High School*.

Research findings on heterogeneous grouping from the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) (formerly the National Middle School Association)

<http://search.amle.org/query.html?rq=0&col=all&qt=+heterogenous+grouping&charset=iso-8859-1>