NO STUDENT LEFT BEHIND

by:

Gien Miel Carlos Omania

It is generally understood that not all students can adapt, cope up and catch up with the expectations of teachers regarding to their level of learning capacity. There will always be students belonging to the fast learners, average learners, and well the not so fast learners.

Much like in a race there will be the ones in the front lines and there are those that are left behind. Students would be the same way. Most of the fast ones are either grouped together in a single section or during elementary assigned in a specific row (usually in the first row of the seating arrangement). But what can be done for these students being categorized as the below average learners?

One teacher commented he was having a difficult time implementing lessons due to the heterogeneous mixture of the class. He asked a fellow teacher and the fellow teacher gave three very useful suggestions.

**Vary the difficulty of the activities**

Activities set in the duration of the class must cater both the fast and the not so fast learners. This would imply that the teacher must prepare different activities with
different sets of levels of difficulties so that the fast will not be bored yet the slow are not having a rough time executing the class activities.

Appoint sages

Utilize the fast learners as sages. This means that the fast learners will serve as peer experts in the class. They will be given responsibilities of monitoring and supporting their classmates who needs extra attention. They may serve as group leaders or peer tutors.

Vary the types of activities

Taking to consideration individual differences, the teacher must then be able to provide different sets of activities catering the different interests of the learners. Some learners will be good on stretching their mental skills while others are more on the performance based tasks. By giving them differentiated instructions the class interactions will become less to worry about.

Taking to consideration the differences of students in terms of learning capacities, the teacher must be well equipped with the proper strategies and methods on how to deal with such circumstances. The traditional style of teachers discussing a unified lesson fit for all is no longer applicable with the kinds of students we have today. It not like a shirt that one size fits all kind of thing. To make sure that the students can adapt, catch up and cope up with the progress of the lesson, the teacher must always bear in mind
that each student is unique and requires specific details and concerns. If these concerns are somewhat addressed in the class, then the students themselves no matter to what level of learning capacity do they belong, will all be surely engaged in the lesson proper thus the teacher can safely say that there is “No student should be left behind.”

Reference: