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INDIVIDUALIZE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSONALIZE INSTRUCTION

To Assure Success For ALL

By Kenneth W. Eastwood, Superintendent, Enlarged City School District of Middletown

Our children live in a competitive world, where one-size-fits-all schooling has become unacceptable. If ALL children really matter, then America must “individualize” educational opportunities and “personalize” instruction for each student.

Maximizing access to high-quality schooling must be the benchmark for progress and equity in our public schools. Matching learning environments and programs to individual needs and aspirations will drive the future of student and school success.

Currently the high expectations of families and businesses clash with the passive, large-group instruction common in traditional American classrooms. The status quo is choking our children’s futures. By adopting new methods that personalize teaching and learning, we can get to a point where ALL children—regardless of zip code, background, or learning style—will be prepared to meet the demands of life in a newly competitive America.

My experience as a school district leader has demonstrated that ALL children can learn if their educational environment treats them as individual learners, building on their strengths (Lopez & Louis, 2009). I have led what the US Department of Education (DoED) has identified as high



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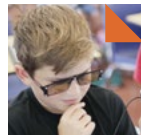
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