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Is There a Learning Gap?

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Introduction
This semester I student taught within a School Corporation in Northwest Indiana. I taught at two different elementary schools, School A and School B. Although the curriculum is the same across both schools, the students at each school are different.

School A has a higher income rate and also has lower enrollment for ethnic students.

School B has more students enrolled in the special education program and more students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program.

My goal is to figure out if students from both schools will learn the same given the same instruction.

Can students from different socio-economic status’ perform the same?

Students will all be given the same instruction within the same unit

The standards to be evaluated on within the unit:

- Reading and Notating Music
- Composing and Arranging Music
- Demonstrate appropriate listening behavior
- Perform appropriate rhythmic accompaniment
- Tell a story with appropriate facts while speaking clearly at an understandable pace
- Using words to express actions, thoughts, and feelings

Students from both schools will be evaluated using the same rubric

The unit encompasses writing poetry with rhythm, and focus on the theme of immigration where students will be expected to write and perform their poem.

Students who have specific IEP’s will be given differentiated instruction but will still be working on the same unit.

Immigration was part of the third grade curriculum and I wanted to integrate both music and state curriculum.

To the right is the comparison of the averages for all the classes.

Results
These are the results of my performance based assessments.

Above is the average scores for both schools.
School A’s average score is 22.4
School B’s average score is 21.6

Student Impact Report
Students were able to learn about rhythm, immigration, and also musical lyrics. The student from both school performed exceptionally well and only a few students from both schools performed below expectations.

Conclusion
The different performance based assessment scores shows that the students at School A scored about the same as students at School B. Although School A might have had a higher average, the students had a more diverse range of scores than School B. I have determined that there was no real gap in between averages and student scores and students from both schools performed well.

References