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# Universal Design for Learning

*Enabling students with diverse learning needs to become “Expert Learners.”*

In support of the concepts of UDL, District 75 is committed to:

- educating and training **staff** on UDL principles
- improving **parent** engagement through UDL strategies
- supporting **administrators** in developing future spending plans that consider UDL
- creating Expert Learners among all our **students** by introducing methodologies/ technologies that support their learning styles

## The Principles of UDL

1. Representation
2. Action / Expression
3. Engagement

# 1. REPRESENTATION

The “WHAT” of learning...  
Students require “what is being taught” to be presented in a variety of ways.

- a. Some learners benefit from visual supports...  
**VISUAL** Representation
- b. Some learners acquire information better through listening—  
**AUDITORY** Representation
- c. Some learners need to physically touch things to comprehend them better...  
**TACTILE** Representation
- d. Most learners can benefit from a combination of all three... **VISUAL + AUDITORY + TACTILE**



**LOOK**



**LISTEN**



**TOUCH**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about **REPRESENTATION**

# 2. ACTION / EXPRESSION

The “HOW” of learning...  
Students should be provided with a variety of ways “how” to express what they know.

Staff MUST be accepting of the multiple means expression that students are encouraged to use (e.g. **communication devices, eye gaze, picture symbols, voice dictation, text-to-speech, content expressed through audio/visual/graphics**). Staff MUST consider these valid and appropriate.

Access to the tools that facilitate multiple means of expression should be available to the students.

Staff must adjust their interactions as the communication partner / educational facilitator to meet the needs of their students.

**Picture Symbols  
through Eye Gaze**



**Electronic  
Communication Devices**



**Text-to-Speech  
Software/Devices**



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about **ACTION / EXPRESSION**

### 3. ENGAGEMENT

The “**WHY**” of learning...  
Students who understands the “why” of learning  
with be more engaged in the learning process.

Staff needs to ensure that “personal relevance” and “background information” are provided to students to facilitate motivation and engagement.

ENGAGEMENT also involves creating an **ENVIRONMENT** where **Students**:

- are motivated to learn
- persist and practice
- apply techniques to support self-regulation and learning styles
- want to learn more **because they can**

All students benefit from **INTERACTIVE LEARNING**... but some students **REQUIRE** it.



**Smartboard Activities**



**Listening Stations**



**iPad Activities**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about **ENGAGEMENT**

## EXPERT LEARNERS

### CREATING EXPERT LEARNERS...

- TEACHERS create Expert Learners
- HOW? Teachers will create EXPERT LEARNERS by:
  - varying presentation of information
  - observing what works best
  - allowing students to choose what works
  - reinforcing successful methods
  - allowing the best methods to be readily available

## **EXPERT LEARNERS will...**

- Know their strengths
- Know their weakness
- Choose the methods that works best for them
- Be motivated to learn
- Self-Advocate

**- END -**