

AUTHOR INFO

Akayla Baynes
(she/her)

Age: 17 years old

From: Wentzville, MO

If you could describe yourself in 5 emojis, what would they be?



What was your best learning experience ever?

My best learning experience was a job shadow I did at this Engineering company called CDG engineers.

What's one thing in the world that you're curious to learn more about?

I am curious to learn more about how exactly sleep works.



EXPLORING TRACKING BY ABILITY

Youth Advisory Council - Paradigms & Possibilities Series

TRACKING BY ABILITY/PERFORMANCE:

In school, particularly high school, there are two types of classrooms. The classroom where people who are advanced in learning are, such as AP. And then there is every other classroom. There is no in between or below.

This limits students' learning and growth because they may not be learning at a pace or environment where they feel comfortable or can get the help they need to be efficient in their work.

What needs to shift is how students in high schools are put into classrooms. During my junior year of high school, I was put into advanced French 3 because there was no "regular" french 3 and I struggled, although I passed with a B, I made the choice of dropping the class during my 2nd semester so I would not risk possibly messing with my GPA. But that could have been prevented. It was not like they did not have a choice to make a regular French 3 class; they decided that if you made it to French 3 (now remember a grade D is passing), then you automatically were ready for a more fast paced class the next year, making it advanced.

CONSIDERING DIFFERENT APPROACHES



Examining her experience at Holman Middle School...

...my 6th grade year we had three teams, North, South, and West. North and South were the same, and West were for students who needed more time comprehending what they were learning. Within the North and South teams, there was one class in each core class; math, science, english, and social studies, for those who were more advanced in that subject. To me, it seemed that helped a lot of students. They also had it our 7th and 8th grade year, but there were only two teams in each, but each core class had an advanced class, and a class that went a little slower, and in between...by putting students with other students close to their own abilities, they can then feed off of each other.