

Perspectives on Teaching Diverse Students

An Alumni Voice

David Wolff

Secondary School Principal [Gr.7-12]

Circle of Life Academy

White Earth Reservation





Enjoy
CrossFit,
Skiing, &
Running

Enjoy
Baking
&
Cooking

Serve on Math
Masters of MN

Married to
Melissa
[BSN]

Board of Directors

**David
Wolff**

Father to
Elliot [7th]
and
Chloe [3rd]

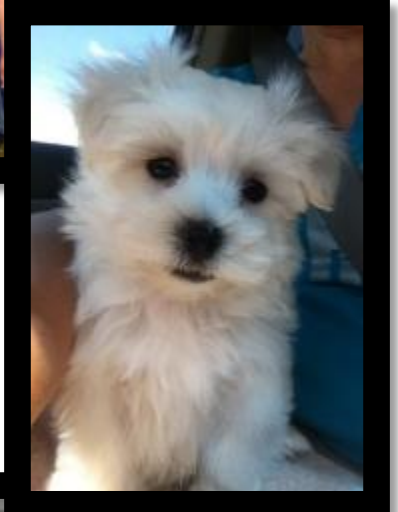
Puppy
name
Lizzy

Serve on MEGT Board of

Paid my way
through MSUM
by working at
Pizza Hut &
Office Max

Student Taught
in DGF

My Profs include: Cliff, Rittenhouse,
Ng, Benson





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David Wolff



@wolffdavid11
#COLAWarriors
#MNGifted
#ecechat
#ruraledchat

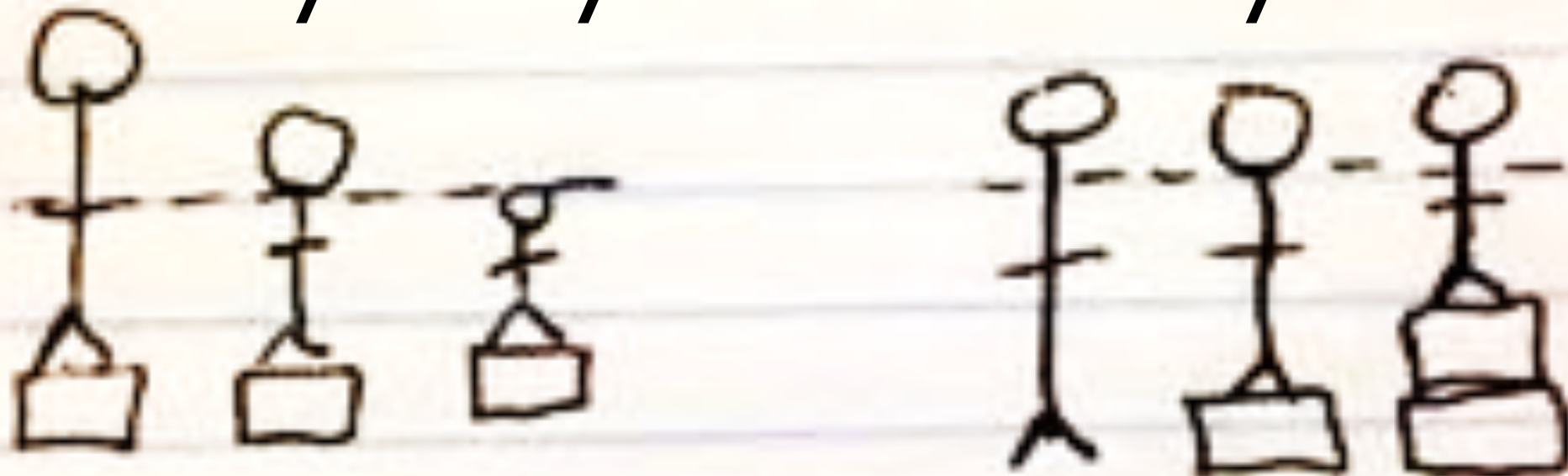
How is equity different than equality?

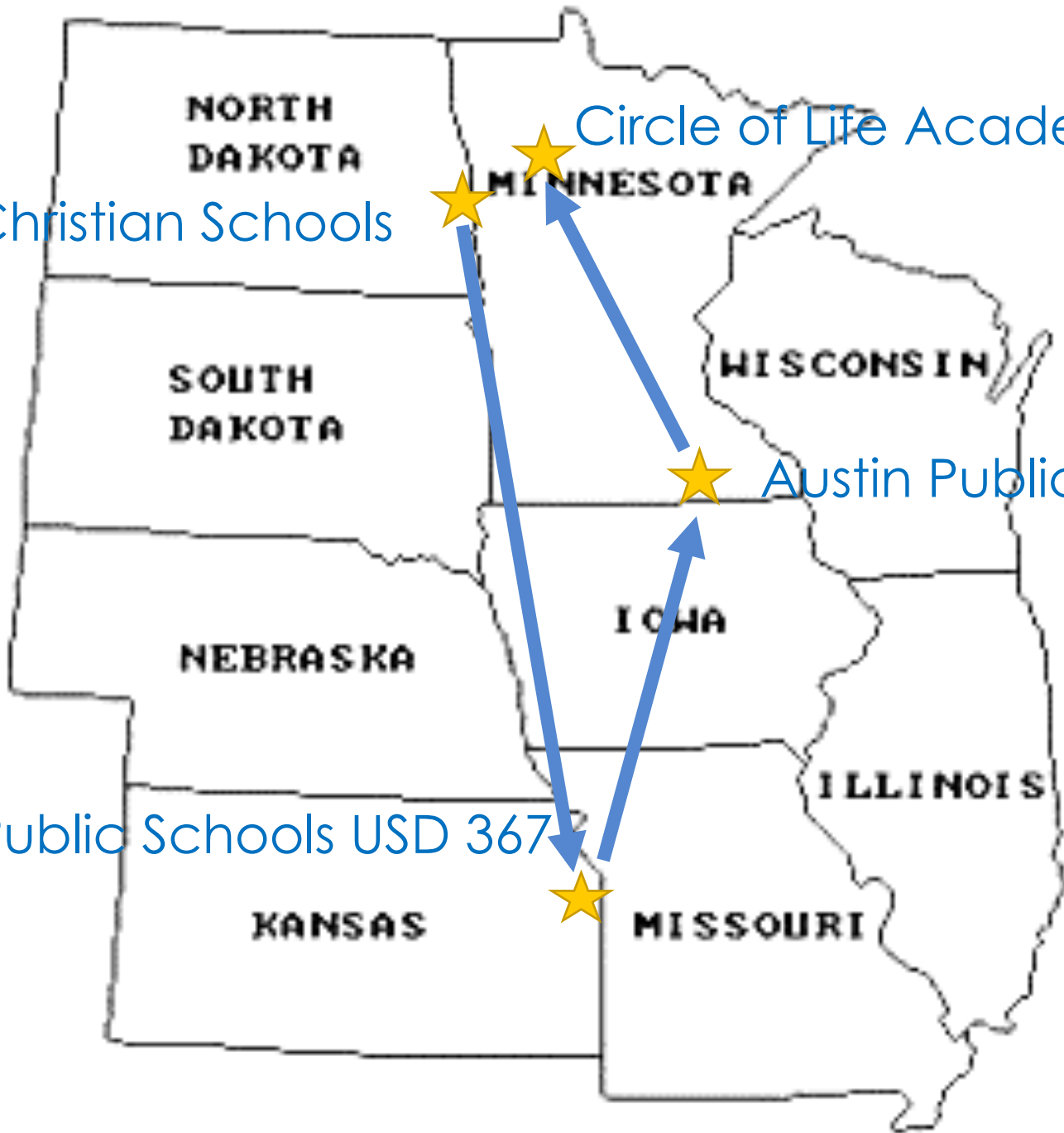


V
S



Educational Leadership is to
strive for both excellence
and equity –
everyday for everyone.





Park Christian Schools

Circle of Life Academy

Austin Public Schools ISD 492

Osawatomi Public Schools USD 367



Journey of a Calling

Private School



Public School



Tribal School

3 years	12 Years	1 year
Park Christian Schools	Osawatomie, KS & Austin, MN	Circle of Life Academy
Taught 2 nd grade	Taught 3 rd & 4 th grades District Coordinator of GT for K-12	Principal 7 th – 12 th grades
+ / Δ School of Choice Religious Focus Funded by Donations Behavior influenced by community Visible Looked as leader in community At-will employee	+ / Δ Publicly Funded Union Tenure Specialists & Support Multiple positions & buildings Mobile families	+ / Δ School of Last Resort Culture & Language Focus Funded by Tribe & BIE Behavior influenced by community Visible Looked as leader in community At-will employee Mobile families

About 53+
Languages
spoken

Spanish
Karen
Karenni
Dinka
Nuer
Arabic
Anuak
Vietnamese



14-15 Kindergarten
Cohort:
50.3% White
30.7% Hispanic
9.6% Black
8.9% Asian
64.6% F/R Lunch



Population of:
24,718

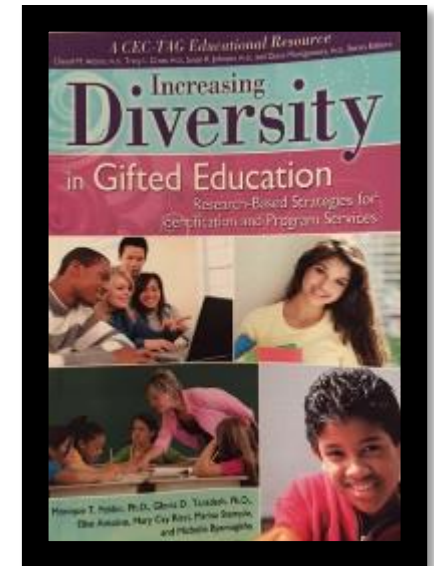
K-12
Population of:
4,797



What do you picture in your head when you hear the term, 'gifted'?

percentages of Black, Hispanic, and White students in public schools and gifted education nationally, show that for all student groups for 2004, 2006, and 2012, every year, African American and Hispanic students are clearly and problematically underrepresented (Ford, 2013). Furthermore, these federal statistics reveal that hundreds of thousands of students in our public schools during 2009 were English language learners and the percentage/number is rising significantly. According to Castellano (2011), educational and instructional leaders in gifted education have a responsibility to promote equity and opportunity for gifted students of diverse backgrounds who have been historically underrepresented and underserved.

Despite the increased awareness for school districts and schools to identify and provide gifted programs to students within this subgroup equitably and defensibly, many ELL students are not receiving the edu-



Action Plan

Acknowledge – respect the cultural & economic differences

Alert – being talent scouts & praise strengths

Alternative – finding different tools and assessments to find students' strengths

Action – APS has developed supports that focus on assets rather than deficits

Tier 1 – Access for **ALL** students

- Total School Clustering Model
- Professional Development

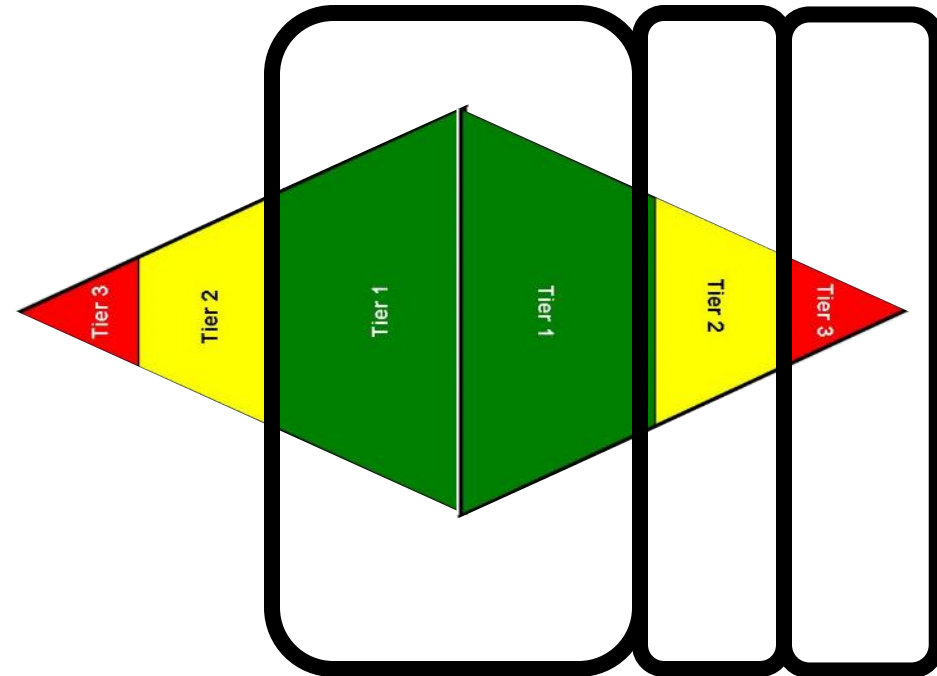
Tier 2 – Access for **MANY** students

- Flexible Grouping
- Young Scholars
- Project E³ [*after school hours*]
- G/T Interventionists Push-In
- 3.5 FTE at K-4 Schools

Tier 3 – Access for **FEW** students

- Personalized Instruction
- 2.0 FTE at Pi Academy [*Gr. 1-4 Multi-age*]
- Grades 5 & 6 GT Cohorts

K-6 Tiered Services



Elementary Students receiving Gifted & Talented Services

2014-15 School Year [K-4]

Group	Number of Students
Student access to GT Services	355
# White	229
# Hispanic	75
# Black	32
# Asian	19
# Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	170
# Receive EL Services	55
# Receive SpEd Services	27

2011-12 School Year [K-5]

Group	Number of Students
Student access to GT Services	215
# White	174
# Hispanic	19
# Black	12
# Asian	10
# Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	N/A
# Receive EL Services	N/A
# Receive SpEd Services	N/A

Questions?



2 Languages spoken

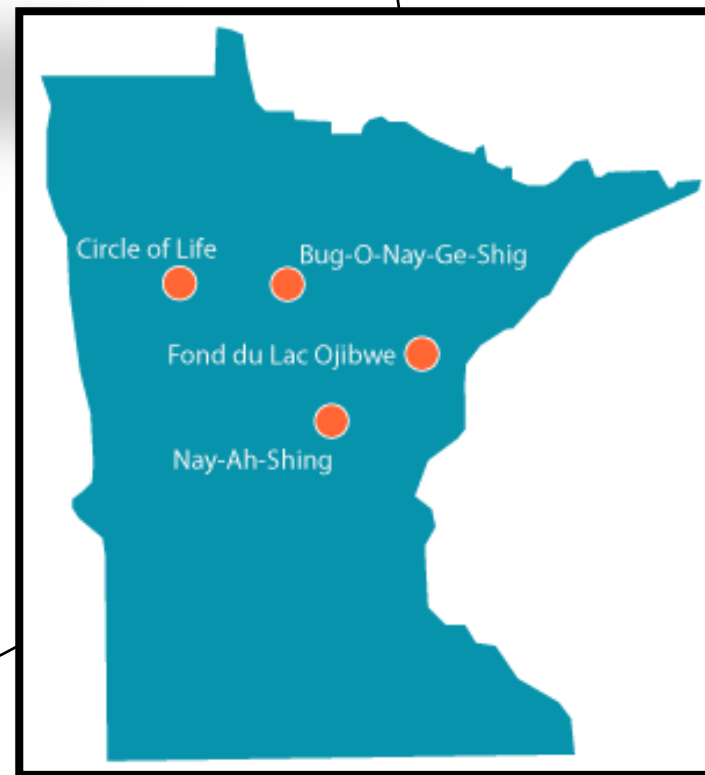
English
Ojibwe

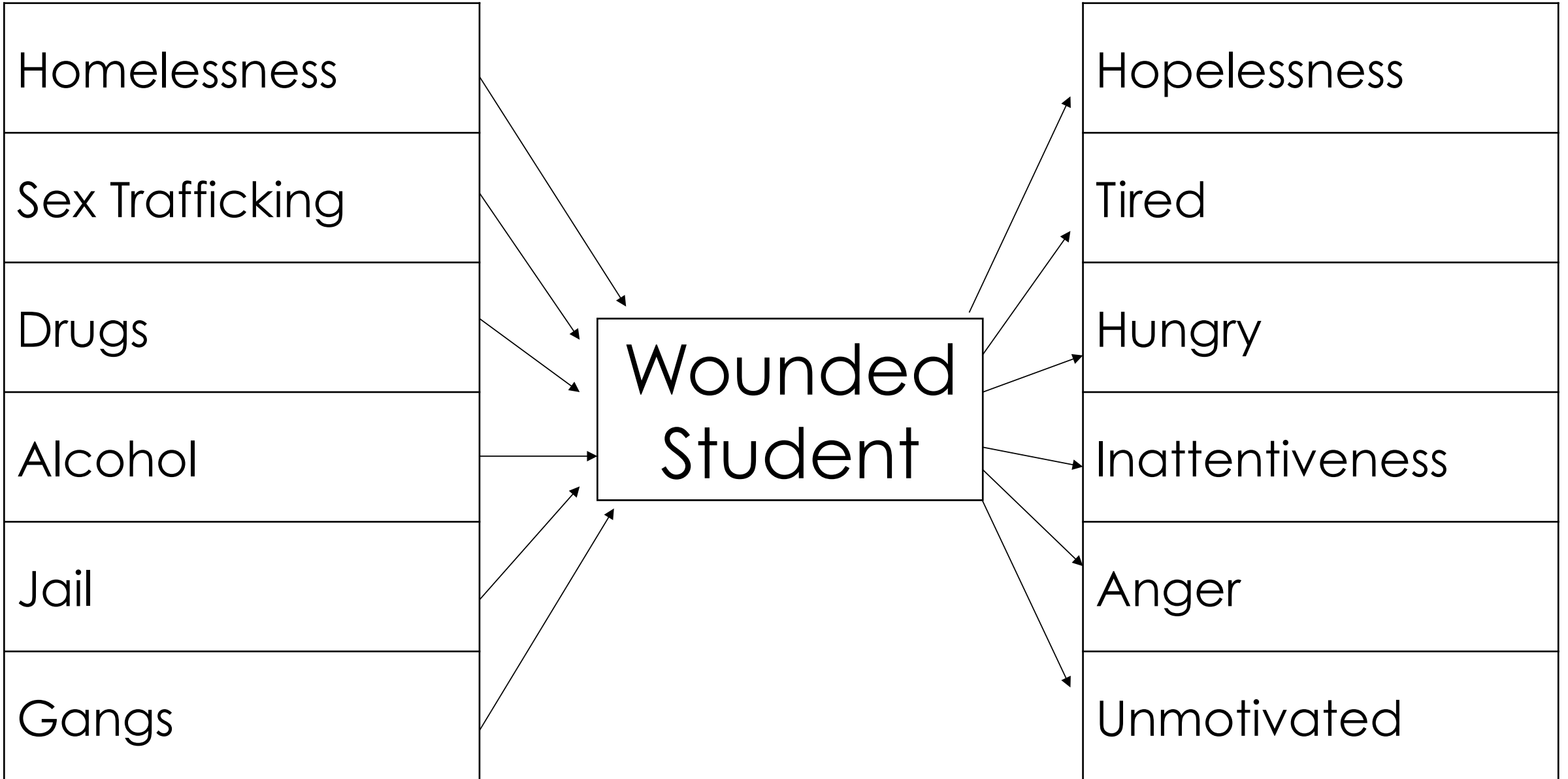


16-17 Kindergarten
Cohort:
100% Native American
100% F/R Lunch



K-12
Population of:
200





Tony



How would you build a relationship with a wounded student?

Questions?



Advice

You can't teach the way you were taught – learners are different

Have empathy – school is often the most predictable and consistent thing in learners' lives

Teaching can not be a career – must be a calling

Be open to alternative pathways – we won't all get a job at Kennedy & Bennett.

Make yourself marketable – special certifications, experiences, degrees...that set you apart from the competition

Self-care is important – take care of self to be your best for your kids

Be teachable – you don't know what you don't know

Teachers are no longer a 'vehicle of content' – you must be a counselor, a friend, a social worker, a psychologist, and a parent; it takes heart as well as a mind which separates us from online forms of education



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