

MOVING FROM DEFICIT THINKING TO ASSET-BASED LANGUAGE IN MATH



**“MY KIDS
CAN’T DO
THAT.”**



**“I’LL NEED TO USE SOME
STRATEGIES TO ENSURE
ALL STUDENTS CAN
ACCESS THE LEARNING.”**

**“MY CLASS IS
TOO BEHIND
FOR GRADE-
LEVEL WORK.”**

**“I CAN INTEGRATE CONTENT
FROM PREVIOUS GRADE
LEVELS ALONGSIDE
GRADE-LEVEL WORK.”**

**“I TEACH
THE LOW
KIDS.”**



**“I’M WORKING TO BUILD MY
STUDENTS’ CONFIDENCE AND
SKILLS SIMULTANEOUSLY.”**

**“MY KIDS
HAVE HUGE
MATH
GAPS.”**

**“I’M PRIORITIZING THE MOST
CRITICAL PREREQUISITES MY
STUDENTS NEED TO ACCESS
GRADE-LEVEL CONTENT.”**

**“THAT’S TOO
RIGOROUS
FOR MY
STUDENTS.”**



**“MY STUDENTS WILL NEED
SOME SUPPORT TO ACCESS
THIS TASK GIVEN THEIR
CURRENT SKILL SET.”**

**“MY STUDENTS
ARE BELOW
GRADE LEVEL.”**

**“MY STUDENTS HAVE
UNFINISHED LEARNING
FROM PREVIOUS GRADES. I’M
WORKING TO ADDRESS IT.”**

**“MY KIDS
CAN’T
READ.”**



**“I PLAN WAYS TO BUILD
BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE
TO HELP MY STUDENTS MAKE
SENSE OF WORD PROBLEMS.”**

**“MY STUDENTS
GIVE UP TOO
EASILY.”**

**“WE’RE BUILDING OUR
PERSEVERANCE MUSCLES
TO STICK WITH IT, EVEN
WHEN IT’S TOUGH.”**