

2018

THE OPPORTUNITY MYTH

What Students Can Show Us
About How School Is Letting
Them Down—and How to Fix It

 TNTP reimagine teaching

The Opportunity Myth is a report that conveys how our unique student population can make significant learning gains. Go to <https://opportunitymyth.tntp.org/> to access the report. It's well worth the read!

Students need these four key resources in their daily school experiences:

- Consistent opportunities to work on GRADE-APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS
- STRONG INSTRUCTION, where students do most of the thinking in a lesson
- DEEP ENGAGEMENT in what they're learning
- Teachers who hold HIGH EXPECTATIONS for students and believe they can meet grade-level standards

The four key resources benefit all students, but particularly students who started the year substantially behind their peers.

- When students who started the year behind had greater access to grade-appropriate assignments, they closed the outcomes gap with their peers by more than seven months.
- In classrooms serving high proportions of students behind grade level, stronger instructional practices amounted to about six months of additional learning.
- Teacher expectations for students' success against grade-level standards—demonstrated the strongest relationship to student growth. Teachers who agreed that their students could meet the bar set by grade-level standards tended to offer stronger assignments and instruction. Teachers who held the lowest expectations tended to offer lower-quality assignments. Those choices have consequences: In classrooms in the top quartile for teacher expectations, students gained five months of growth, compared to students in classrooms in the bottom quartile for teacher expectations.