

Research Conference

2010

Opening Address

Professor Geoff Masters

CEO ACER

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expectations

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Our expectations of students influence the quality of their mathematics learning.

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Expectations are lowered for some students when mathematics learning is limited to the completion of class work targeted at the middle of the grade.

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In what other ways
might current
mathematics practices
be 'institutionalising'
low expectations?

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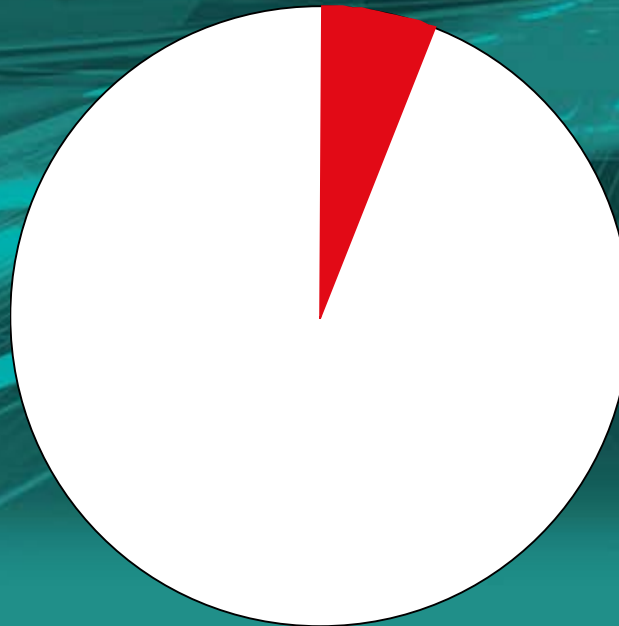
Expectations are lowered for some students by the belief that mathematics is difficult and of limited relevance, and that only a small percentage of students can excel.

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Year 8 mathematics – AUSTRALIA

6% 'advanced'

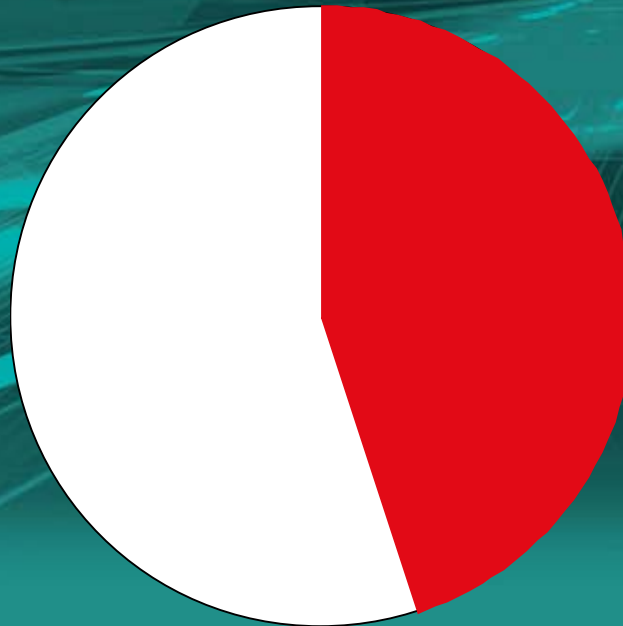


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Year 8 mathematics – CHINESE TAIPEI

45% 'advanced'



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Expectations are lowered for some students by mathematics courses that protect participants from intellectual rigour and that place a ceiling on what students are able to learn.

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Expectations are lowered for some students when different outcomes are expected of different groups (eg, Indigenous and low SES students).

(the 'soft bigotry' of low expectations)

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Expectations are lowered for some students when success is measured only as the achievement of Year level expectations.

(rather than making excellent progress
an expectation of every learner)

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Our expectations of students influence the quality of their mathematics learning.

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Nobody rises to low expectations.

Calvin Lloyd