What is the IFL?

- A non-profit Learning Research and Development Center of educators and researchers who partner with school districts that serve large percentages of students of poverty and language diversity.
- They develop tools and provide professional development and other supports to improve teaching, learning, and leadership.
What is the IFL?

- An organization that believes that the knowledge about how to improve teaching, learning, and leadership in a district and specific schools is constructed through collaborative work and problem-solving with the leaders and teachers in the district.
IFL Collaboration with Paterson School District

- Professional development for Principals, District representatives, and Teachers that:
  - Deepens and extends prior knowledge and builds on existing instructional practice
  - Creates a beginning foundation across grade levels and subjects in a school for developing a common vision of high quality teaching and learning
  - Emphasizes classroom discourse and formative assessments to track what students know/don’t know, are understanding/not understanding
  - Provides models of instructional practices around tasks and texts with strategies for addressing diverse learning needs
Additional IFL Support

- Review of curriculum in content areas
- ELL Program Review and report
- Ongoing planning for expansion of support for teachers at different grade levels and schools
IFL Foundation for their work The Principles of Learning...
Examining your Beliefs About Effort and Ability

Quick Write
Take 3-5 minutes to write your thinking about the following:
1. What does it mean to be smart?
2. Can all students get smarter? Why or why not?
3. What is the relationship between effort and ability?

Share your thoughts with a partner…
The Principles of Learning:

- Are drawn from 20 years of cognitive research
- Challenge the assumption that inherited ability places a ceiling on what a student can learn
- Enables the kinds of effort required to learn the intended content
Aptitude vs. Effort: A Fundamental Tension

- Talents and gifts are valued
- The work ethic runs deep
- Our strong belief in the importance of aptitude leads to a devaluing of effort
Aptitude and Effort:

- Aptitude is paramount...
- Effort compensates for lack of ability...
- Effort *creates* ability...
Human Capability is Open-ended

- People can become more intelligent through sustained and targeted effort
- Upper limits of human capability are unknown
Promoting Learning

- Environments can foster learning orientation
- An environment that routinely challenges learners to use metacognitive strategies fosters learning-oriented habits of mind
- Intelligence can be socialized
Principles of Learning 1-4:

- Organize for an effort-based concept of intelligence and learning
- Clear and high expectations
- Fair and credible evaluations
- Recognition of accomplishment
Principles of Learning 5-9:

- Providing high quality instructional practice and developing student capacity for effective engagement with rigorous, cognitively demanding content
- Socializing Intelligence
- Academic Rigor in a Thinking Curriculum
- **Accountable Talk**
- Self-management of Learning
- Learning as Apprenticeship
Accountable Talk

- Talk is essential to learning
- Talk must be accountable
  - ...to the learning community
  - ...to knowledge
  - ...to rigorous thinking