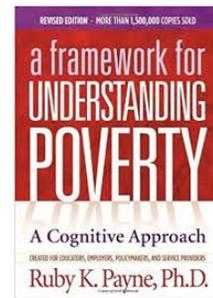


At ILC 14 staff members read Ruby K Payne's book *A Framework for Understanding Poverty: A Cognitive Approach*. Some had read the book before, but with the rise in the number of students and families we have living in poverty, we decided it was a great time to read the updated version.



The book is easy to read and illustrates its points with fantastic case studies and checklists. Poverty is defined by Payne as a lack of resources, not just financial resources, which then made the lessons learned applicable to even more of our student population. So what can schools do to increase achievement for under-resourced students?

**1. First and foremost, create relationships of mutual respect with students.**

Mutual respect is about having high expectations and support.

**2. Use the resource analysis as a method for determining interventions that work.**

Interventions are successful only if they're built on the resources the student has access to.

**3. Provide the tools to bridge between the abstract representational reality and the sensory world by using mental models.**

Mental models are stories, analogies, movement, or pictures/drawings.

**4. Teach planning.**

Planning helps get tasks done on time, provides procedures, and allows for a systematic approach to assignments.

**5. Teach formal register.**

Teach students that there are two ways to say everything—one as you would talk to a friend and the other as you would hear a newscaster on TV.

**6. Help each student develop a future story.**

Without a future story, there's little motivation to do well in school.

**7. Direct-teach the hidden rules of school and work success.**

Teach students that there are two different sets of rules—one for the school setting and one for away from school. By learning these hidden rules of success, students increasingly will be able to function effectively in multiple settings.

As a group we felt that at ILC we are doing a lot of the things right to help under-resourced students but that we have areas to improve on.