

I-26 GROUPING FOR INSTRUCTION

Students may be grouped within a school and within a classroom so that each may benefit to a greater extent than otherwise possible. Effective grouping must consider its purpose in each case in order to determine the basic difference factors to be minimized in each situation. Grouping should be as flexible as possible with provision for altering the grouping as often as necessary to fit the specific purpose involved. The aim is placement of each student among a group of classmates in every situation where their associations in work and play will be comfortable, yet where they will be continually challenged and inspired to work for higher goals within their capacity.

Since the students in the schools are infinitely diverse in their backgrounds, capacities, and beliefs, teachers must accept these differences and learn to deal with them. Beneath these differences lie our common heritage and hopes, our belief in God, in freedom and in human dignity. One must appreciate that which we have in common in order to handle that which keeps us apart. Teachers have a great opportunity to make wise use of these differences so that the free mind and independent spirit of the next generation of Americans may be preserved.

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