

Title: Teacher Training and Implementation of a Learning  
Styles Approach Impacts Mexican-American Student  
Achievement in Language Arts

Topic Area: Other Areas of Education  
Teacher Education

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## Abstract

Project TEACH (Teachers Encourage Achievement, Cooperation, and Honesty) was a 3-year collaborative project between the Texas Woman's University and the Fort Worth Independent School District. This project was partially funded by the Sid Richardson Foundation, Fort Worth, Texas. The focus of TEACH was upon provision of teacher training using the Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles Model identification of learning styles of both teachers and students, and provisions of materials and support for teachers implementing a learning styles approach in their classrooms. The learning styles of over 2,000 7th- and 8th-grade Hispanic students and over 40 middle-school teachers were identified and linked. Teacher training on the Dunn and Dunn Model was provided, materials appropriate for multisensory learning style preferences identified, and ongoing teacher support and assistance provided by a university project coordinator and two instructional aides funded by the project.

Research conducted during project TEACH supports a body of literature suggesting that the learning styles movement is conducive to the attainment of higher levels of teacher competence because the more teachers learn about their own teaching and learning styles, as well as the learning styles of their students, the easier it becomes to explain what happens in

their classrooms and why, to change their own teaching behaviors to meet the needs of their students' learning styles, and ultimately to impact student achievement. Project TEACH has implications for both teacher practice and teacher training.

