

THE SCHOOLS ATTUNED® PROGRAM CORE COURSE

2006 PARTICIPANT EVALUATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Prepared by All Kinds of Minds®
Research, Program Evaluation and Information Department
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all kinds of minds®

A NON-PROFIT INSTITUTE FOR THE
UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENCES IN LEARNING

BACKGROUND

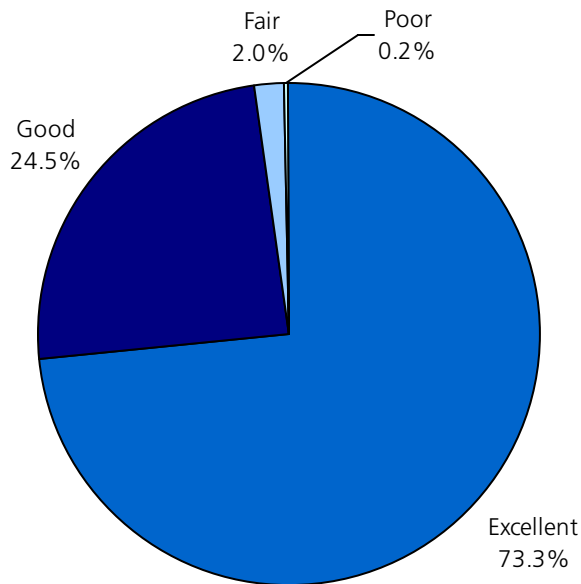
The Schools Attuned Program is a professional development program designed to improve educators' ability to help students with learning differences find success in school. The Schools Attuned Program provides 35 instructional hours (Core Course) plus 10 contact hours of follow-up experiences (Practicum). Participants are given the option of registering for one of two paths, Generalist or Subject Specialist. Each path is designed to address educators' areas of interest or expertise based on the grade levels and/or subject areas they teach. Elementary or middle school educators focusing on multiple subject areas typically enroll in the Generalist Path. Middle or high school educators focusing on one or two subject areas typically enroll in the Subject Specialist Path. Educators who share characteristics of both paths, such as an elementary school Art teacher, have the option of enrolling in either path.

All Kinds of Minds uses evaluation of the Schools Attuned Program to continuously improve its impact upon educators and the students they serve. Feedback from Schools Attuned participants provides documentation of educators' reactions to the program and its facilitators and their assessment of the new knowledge and skills they have gained as a result of the program. To read more about the research and evaluation behind our programs, visit the All Kinds of Minds web site at WWW.ALLKINDSOFMINDS.ORG.

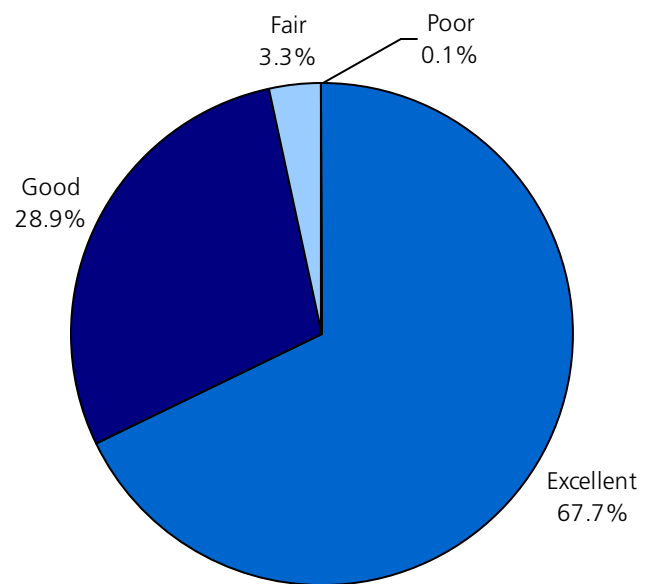
This executive summary presents program evaluation outcomes for the Core Course component of the Schools Attuned Program Core Courses occurred between January and December 2006 in sites across the United States and Canada, as well as in Switzerland. Analyses are based on information from the Schools Attuned Participant Core Course Survey and Schools Attuned Facilitator Profile – Participant's View. In 2006, a total of 4,712 participants completed program evaluation surveys during 266 Core Course events: 3,275 participants through the Generalist Path, and 1,437 through the Subject Specialist Path. In the following sections, results are presented for both the Generalist and Subject Specialist Paths.

OVERALL PROGRAM QUALITY

The majority of participants in both program paths rated the overall quality of the Core Course as good or excellent. In 2006, over 97 percent of the Generalist Path participants and 96 percent of the Subject Specialist Path participants rated the overall quality of the Core Course as good or excellent. These results are consistent with participant ratings of course value in 2005, where 98 percent of the Generalist Path participants and 96 percent of the Subject Specialist Path participants rated the overall quality of the Core Course as good or excellent.



Generalist Path
Overall Quality

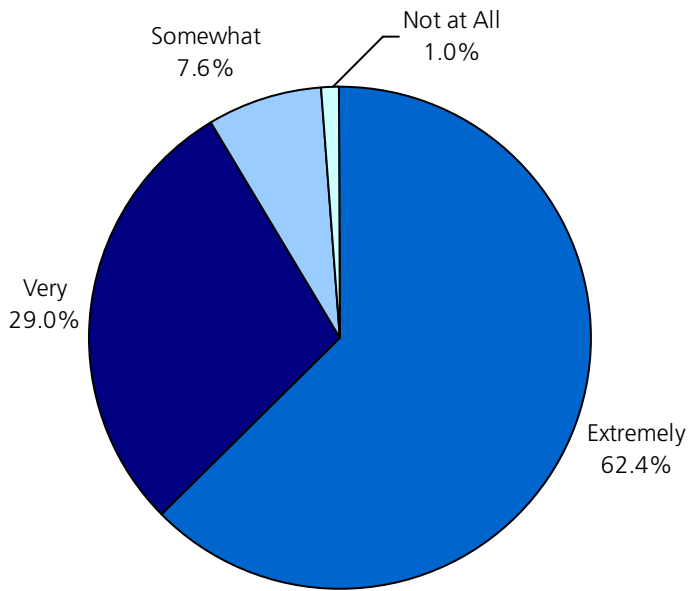


Subject Specialist Path
Overall Quality

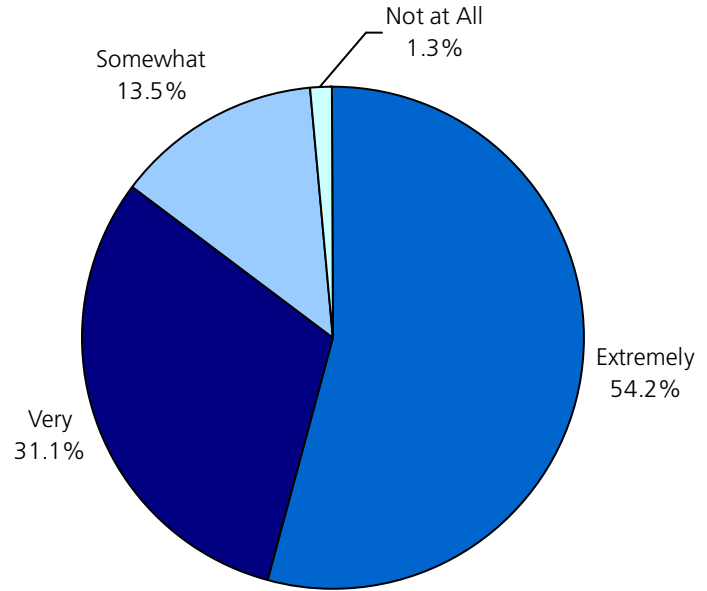
"This was the best professional development I have ever attended. I am so excited to get back into my classroom and make a difference to all of my students."

-2006 Schools Attuned participant

When asked about recommending the course, 91 percent of Generalist Path and 85 percent of Subject Specialist Path participants were extremely or very likely to recommend Schools Attuned to their colleagues.



Likely to Recommend
Generalist Path



Likely to Recommend
Subject Specialist Path

"Every educator could benefit from this. I have had so many enlightening moments this week."

"I will recommend this course to my colleagues – it was excellent!"

-2006 Schools Attuned Participants

COURSE OBJECTIVES

More than 93 percent of participants from both program paths agreed that the course supported their ability to understand and use each of the Schools Attuned concepts listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Schools Attuned Core Course Objectives

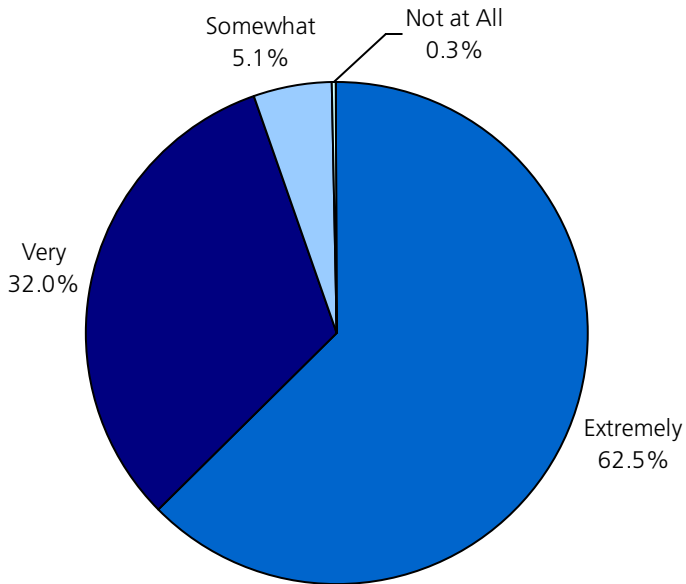
Participating in the Core Course supports educators' ability to:

- Understand differences in learning
 - Identify students' strengths and areas in need of improvement
 - Develop strategies to enhance the learning of students
 - Make instructional decisions based on neurodevelopmental understanding of students
 - Infuse optimism in students regarding their ability to learn
 - Help students understand their own learning
 - Create a classroom climate that protects students from humiliation
 - Communicate with parents about students' learning
 - Collaborate with colleagues about students' learning
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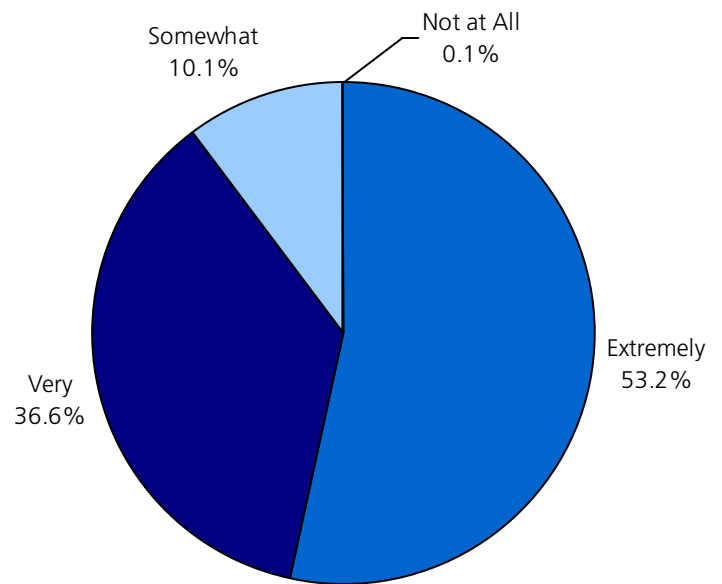
"I think education is moving in a positive, proactive direction. I agree 100% with the Schools Attuned approach."

-2006 Schools Attuned Participant

Participants also rated the degree to which they anticipated implementing Schools Attuned concepts in their educational practice. Approximately 95 percent of Generalist Path participants and 90 percent of Subject Specialist Path participants were either extremely or very likely to use what they learned in Schools Attuned back in their classrooms.



**Likely to Use
Generalist Path**



**Likely to Use
Subject Specialist Path**

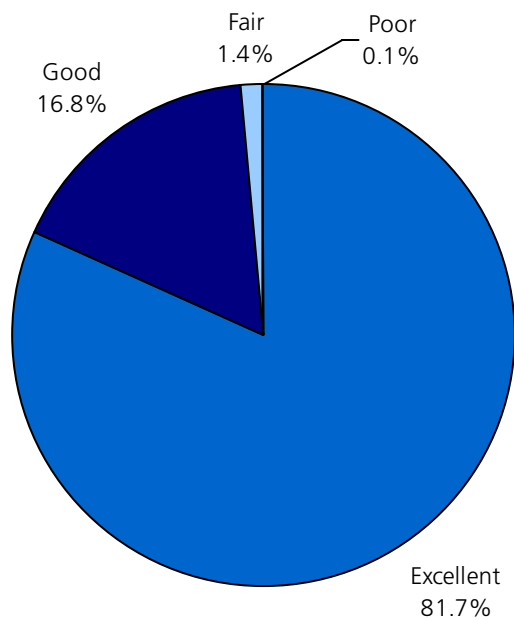
“I truly have never been to a workshop that impacted me as much as this one has. I know that I will use this, not only for the students I attune, but many of the strategies will benefit all students. ”

-2006 Schools Attuned Participant

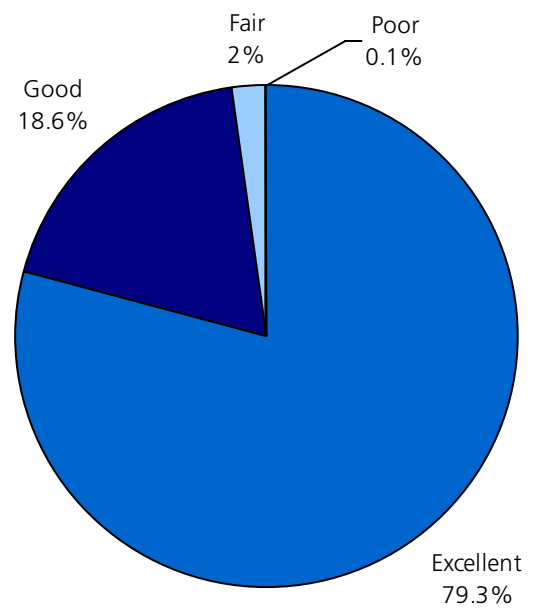
RATINGS OF FACILITATOR SKILL AND QUALITY

Key to the success of the Schools Attuned program is the quality of the facilitators. Facilitators must possess a strong knowledge base about the content, have experience implementing the Schools Attuned Program in the classroom, and have a high degree of facilitation skills.

When asked to rate the skill and quality of course facilitation, participants provided positive responses. More than 97 percent of participants in both program paths rated the overall facilitation quality as good or excellent.



Overall Facilitator Skill
Generalist Path



Overall Facilitator Skill
Subject Specialist Path

"The facilitator used her knowledge to guide us toward our own level of understanding. With gentle prompting, she encouraged us to think and see differently."

"The presentations were clear, specific, and organized."

"The presenters were extremely knowledgeable and very caring. I felt supported and respected by all involved."

-2006 Schools Attuned Participants

In addition to providing overall ratings of facilitator quality, participants complete a Schools Attuned Facilitator Profile. The Profile expands upon the overall rating of facilitator quality by including items for 11 fundamental facilitation skills. A total of 6,522 Facilitator Profile surveys were completed in 2006. Results for both program paths were analyzed and are presented in summary in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Schools Attuned Facilitator Profiles				
<i>The Core Course Facilitator.....</i>	<u>Excellent</u> %	<u>Good</u> %	<u>Fair</u> %	<u>Poor</u> %
Promotes a positive, safe, and engaging environment	85.8	12.9	1.1	0.2
Uses time effectively to achieve objectives	77.8	19.3	2.5	0.4
Prepares, organizes, and manages materials and equipment effectively	81.9	16.6	1.4	0.1
Promotes participation by all while respecting individual styles	84.3	13.9	1.6	0.2
Supports and participates in small group work appropriately	79.3	18.8	1.7	0.2
Explains purpose and structure of activities effectively	75.3	21.2	3.3	0.3
Demonstrates knowledge of Course content	87.2	11.6	1.1	0.1
Exhibits respect and enthusiasm for Schools Attuned methods and philosophy	90.9	8.6	0.4	0.1
Uses debriefing and reflective activities as tools to enhance learning	80.6	17.7	1.4	0.2
Displays a professional and friendly demeanor	90.1	8.8	1.0	0.1
Uses expertise to support participants in developing their own insights and conclusions	83.7	14.5	1.7	0.2

“I feel personally and professionally enriched by our facilitator’s commitment to students.”

-2006 Schools Attuned Participant

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Participants were asked to provide additional comments on numerous aspects of the Schools Attuned Core Course. Comments were analyzed for content, and several themes emerged including the **quality and value of the Course** and the **impact of the Course on professional practice**. A sampling of participant comments, illustrative of these particular themes, is presented below:

"This course was truly an eye-opener. It was informative, interesting and taught in a very structured way."

"It made me take a step back and reevaluate how I have been teaching. I feel this program will make me a more rounded teacher."

"I liked how the course incorporated the whole student. Every aspect of a child was addressed."

"I was able to look at my students through a different lens."

"Learning about the mind and having interventions and accommodations makes me feel more adequate to teach my class."

"The eight constructs, their functions and components break it down for me so I can truly understand where our students' strengths and weaknesses lie. I can't wait to get started on one of my new students in the fall!"

"This course will probably change the way I teach in a dramatic and positive way."

"This has been an amazing experience. It has been the most valuable professional development I've undertaken as I can see the connections and applications in my teaching."

All Kinds of Minds uses the results included in this report to inform subsequent Core Course program development, guide follow-up experiences, and enhance the professional development of facilitators. In this way, the Schools Attuned Program is improved and informed by those who implement its philosophy and methods – practicing educators.

Additional Participant Evaluation Summary Reports for Schools Attuned Core Courses can be requested from All Kinds of Minds by contacting research@allkindsofminds.org.