

What are the Differences Between These Terms?

Standards-based, learner-centered	Standards-referenced	Tracking
Students are working at instructional level in all content areas	Students are working at grade level across content areas	Students are grouped based on few assessments
Students own their own learning. They have the power	Teachers control learning	Teacher is the decision-maker
Porous system; students grouped based on performance rather than age, students move in and out as needed	Students grouped by age; students progress in a time-bound system	Students grouped with limited movement
Individual needs are being met through students' interests, goals, and unique learning styles	Group needs are being met through grade level standards	Focus is on the system rather than on the learning
Instruction is balanced; students must understand the information, and be able to apply it in real life, authentic situations	Instruction is driven by prescribed programs and textbook assessments	Instruction moves forward only when all students are ready
Progression is based on proficiency	Progression is based on seat time	Progression is based on group readiness
Students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff and community members know the expectations	Teachers know the expectations	Teachers control expectations

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