

# Low SES and At-Risk Band...

The Challenges are NOT what most would think!

**“Poverty is a chronic experience resulting from an aggregate of adverse social and economic risk factors.”** -Eric Jensen, author of *Poor Students, Rich Teaching*

What is really different?

- Their Tools: The “Toolbox” vs. the “Multi-Tool”
- Their life outside of school
- Their motivations
- Their perception of possible future outcomes

What shouldn't matter?

- Their parent's income
- Their living arrangements
- Their likelihood to move



**Of supreme importance is LOSING the “Deficit Lens” that many people use when looking at students in a Low SES or At-Risk Situation.**

How can WE be the groundwork for their success?

The Classroom:

- Procedures
- Consistency
- Positivity
- Safe/Supported Risk Environment

The Teacher:

- Must have the BEST pedagogy
- High expectations
- SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE!
  - Talk WITH them, not AT them.
- Don't take things personally.
- Be willing to get outside your own comfort zone...
- If all else fails...play games.



Goal Setting (You must model and teach a growth mindset):

- Attainable is where they are **comfortable**.
- WE must teach them that setting goals that might be unattainable won't make them a failure if they don't complete them, because they will go further than they originally thought they could.
- They must have time for guided reflection. They likely don't know how and WON'T take the time without help.

The true “SUCCESS TEST”

- Do the kids love the band room like it's their home (or more than their home)?
- Do the kids push themselves to try hard, even things that are new?
- Do the kids take pride and ownership in the program, its achievement, and its future?
- Do you have kids that want to share the love of music with others?

## Great Resources

**Eric Jensen**

Poor Students, Rich Teaching

Teaching with Poverty in Mind

**Carol Dweck**

Mindset

[https://www.ted.com/speakers/carol\\_dweck](https://www.ted.com/speakers/carol_dweck)

### **Band Directors Talk Shop Articles**

<https://banddirectorstalkshop.com/teach-band-low-ses-schoolnow/>

<https://banddirectorstalkshop.com/so-i-teach-at-a-low-ses-schoollanguage-and-delivery/>

<https://banddirectorstalkshop.com/section-rehearsal-attendance/>

<https://banddirectorstalkshop.com/improving-section-rehearsal-attendance/>

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