ONLINE: Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

*"I enjoyed this course
because it gave me resources that I can use
in the classroom to improve student abilities."*

– Denise D.

The U.S. Department of Education, and others indicate that **weak cognitive skills are the source of over 80% of learning problems.**

In this course you'll come to understand the answer: students approach each task with varying learning tools. These tools are called cognitive skills, and these skills determine the quality, speed, and ease with which individuals learn and perform.

This course provides methods for detecting students with weak cognitive skills and tools to strengthen those skills. Teachers will receive understanding, as well as ways to apply development techniques in the classroom. The online class is fun and interactive and includes information about new brain research and how it can impact today's classrooms.

Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

The course also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Each self-study PD course from Professional Learning Board includes:
- **Convenient access** anytime, anywhere, any device
- Interactive **online** textbook
- Implement **practical suggestions** immediately
- Demonstrate comprehension with **quizzes** and checks for understanding
- Print **certificates** of completion
- Easily assign courses to align with each teacher's **personalized PD needs**
- **Integrate** with school and district-wide initiatives
- **Low cost solution for all courses, all teachers, all school year**
- **Reports** for school administrators

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- The potential and possibility of unlocking your students' complete learning potential.
- Understanding the reality and prevalence of learning challenges and the need for effective special education.
- The crucial role of teachers and schools in maximizing educational impact and student learning.
- Increasing the importance of cognitive skills for living successfully in the current society.

LESSON 2: Testing

- The importance of how tests are administered and interpreted in understanding a student's individual learning needs and challenges.
- Understanding the two main types of tests and their different goals.
- Examining the role of IQ scores and phonemic awareness in accurately evaluating learning difficulties.
- Common contemporary approaches to diagnosed learning issues and the significance of cognitive skills in making a lasting impact on students' learning.

LESSON 3: Cognitive Skills

- Understanding the nature of student learning and the role cognitive skills play in it.
- Identifying and accurately assessing cognitive weaknesses as signs of deeper learning issues.
- Exploring the features and significance of specific cognitive skills.
- Examining the inter-connected nature of skills and specific abilities closely associated with cognitive growth.

LESSON 4: The Brain

- Exploring contemporary research insights into the functioning of the brain.
- Examining the role and nature of attention and memory in the learning process.
- Understanding dyslexia and effective approaches to it.
- The significance of parental involvement and the need for practice.

LESSON 5: Effective Training

- Identifying the role of the brain in laying essential foundations for learning.
- Exploring specific methods to build and strengthen cognitive skills.
- Emphasizing the need for effective cognitive training to be non-academic in nature