

## **Differentiated Strategies for Gifted Students**

### **Compacting**

- assesses what a student knows about material to be studied and what the student still needs to master
- plans for learning what is not known and excuses the student for what is known
- plans for freed-up time to be spent in enrichment or accelerated study

### **High-Level Questions**

During class discussion and on tests, the teacher attempts to ensure that the higher able learner is presented with questions that draw on advanced levels of information, require leaps of understanding, and challenge thinking.

### **Learning Centers**

Learning centers can be “stations” or collections of materials learners use to explore topics or practice skills. For gifted learners learning centers should move beyond cursory exploration of topics and practice of basic skills and provide study in greater depth of interesting and important topics.

### **Tiered Assignments**

In the heterogeneous class, a teacher uses various levels of activities to ensure that students explore ideas at a level that builds on their prior knowledge and prompts continued growth. Student groups employ varied approaches to explore essential ideas.

### **Interest Groups**

Interest groups provide enrichment for students who can demonstrate mastery/competence with required work. They are sometimes a vehicle for providing students with meaningful study when basic assignments are completed.

### **Independent Projects**

Independent projects offer a process through which student and teacher identify problems or topics of interest to the student. Both student and teacher plan a method of investigating the problem or topic and identify the type of product the student will develop. This product should address the problem and demonstrate the student’s ability to apply skills and knowledge of the problem or topic.

### **Mentoring/Apprenticeships**

The student works with a resource teacher, the media specialist, a parent volunteer, or a community member to develop and carry-out all or part of a project or task. This is a useful strategy to help students develop skills of production in a field and to develop career awareness.

### **Contract/Management Plans**

This is an agreement between the student and teacher. The teacher grants certain freedoms and choices about how a student will complete tasks, and the student agrees to use the freedoms appropriately in the designing and completing work according to specification.

