

Gifted and Talented Education Program



DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Our program is designed to provide intellectual growth to all GATE students by offering appropriately differentiated instruction at all school sites during the regular school day that meets or exceeds state academic content standards. The goal of the program is for all GATE students to achieve one year's growth in all academic areas, even if it is beyond grade level expectations.

What Differentiated Curriculum Is: Differentiated curriculum is an approach to teaching which provides students with a number of different options for learning. The word differentiated means different or not the same. The regular classroom curriculum is either accelerated to the learner's own pace or studied more in depth by using higher level critical thinking skills and/or by making connections to prior knowledge in other subjects. When appropriate, the students will also at times be required to complete projects that demonstrate the knowledge learned from the differentiated activities.

What Differentiated Curriculum Is Not: Differentiated curriculum is not intended to be beyond the ability level of the student and should not cause content knowledge gaps in the student's learning. Differentiated curriculum is not intended to happen all the time and most students do not need it in all subjects. Differentiated curriculum also does not mean more of the same curriculum. The purpose of differentiated curriculum is to increase learning and encourage students to become lifelong learners.

Reference: Carol Ann Tomlinson, Ph.D.
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