

DIFFERENTIATION: MEETING ALL STUDENTS NEEDS

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WHAT IS DIFFERENTIATION?

- Differentiated instruction: an approach that helps educators tailor their teaching so that all students, regardless of their ability, can learn the classroom material.
- Differentiated instruction honors students' diverse backgrounds and **learning styles**.
- Teachers use multiple **strategies** to make sure that all students can absorb the information being taught.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATION IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT

| WHAT IT IS NOT | WHAT IT IS |
|---|---|
| Individualized instruction | Proactive planning for groups of students |
| All homogeneous groups | Flexible grouping |
| Higher-order thinking questions for the general education students and lower level questions for students with disabilities | Multiple approaches to content, process and product |
| The teacher using their preferred instruction strategy and only using that strategy | Student centered |
| Learning experiences are “one-size fits all” | Learning experiences are based on ongoing assessments |

KEY PRINCIPLES IN DIFFERENTIATION

- 1) Ongoing, formative assessment:** teachers continually assess to identify students' strengths and areas of need so they can meet students where they are and help them move forward
- 2) Recognizing the diversity of learners:** the students we teach have diverse levels of expertise and experience with reading, writing, thinking, problem solving, and speaking. Ongoing assessments enable teachers to develop differentiated lessons that meet every students' needs
- 3) Group work:** students collaborate in pairs and small groups whose membership changes as needed. Learning in groups enables students to engage in meaningful discussions and to observed and learn from one another
- 4) Focus on key concepts:** the focus in classrooms that differentiate instruction is on issues and concepts rather than the "book" or the chapter. This encourages all students to explore big ideas and expand their understanding of key concept
- 5) Choice:** teachers offer students choice in their reading and writing experiences and in the tasks and projects they complete. BY negotiating with students, teachers can create motivating assignments that meet students' diverse needs and varied interests

WAYS TO DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTION

- 1) Content
- 2) Process
- 3) Product
- 4) Learning environment

CONTENT

Differentiation by Content: concepts, partial mastery, familiarity

- Can differentiate the content by designing activities for groups of students that cover various levels
- Students who are unfamiliar with a lesson may be required to start with tasks on the lower levels; remembering and understanding
- Present content in a variety of different ways

PROCESS

- Each student has a preferred learning process
- Teachers can enhance student learning by offering support based on individual needs
- Manipulatives, hands on supports
- Vary the length of time to complete a task, or examine topic in greater depth

PRODUCT

- The product is what the student creates at the end of the lesson to demonstrate the mastery of content
- Tests, projects, reports, or other activities
- Teachers may assign students to complete activities that show mastery in preferred ways or ways that show their strengths

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Conditions for optimal learning include both physical and social/emotional elements
- A flexible classroom layout is key
- Teachers use classroom management techniques that foster a safe and supportive learning environment
- Materials that reflect a variety of cultures and home

DIFFERENTIATION IN READING

1. Leveled classroom library
2. Assess regularly (running records, informal assessments)
3. Guided reading and strategy groups based off data to target area of need
4. Flexible grouping- based off specific task NOT ability
5. Process charts
6. Different scaffolds and supports
7. Explicit instruction

DIFFERENTIATION IN WRITING

- Skill focus
- Differentiated mentor texts
- Graphic organizers
- Individual choice
- Oral rehearsal/planning
- Sentence starters, word banks, checklists
- Visual aids
- Paper choice

DIFFERENTIATION IN MATH

- Hands on materials- manipulatives
- Real world application
- Center games based on data
- Small group instruction based on data
- Differentiated numbers

SCENARIOS

QUESTIONS?