

Essential Components of Differentiated Instruction

Pre-Assessments/ Learner Profiling

Profile students' attitudes, interests, experiences, skills, knowledge, learning styles, Multiple Intelligences, analytic/global tendencies through:

- Pre-tests
- Inventories
 - Interest
 - Multiple Intelligences
 - Modalities
 - Language
 - Non-School Literacy
- District assessments
- Observation data
- K-W-L charts (Know, Want to Learn, Learned)
- Surveys
- Dialogue
- Checklists
- Journal entries
- 1:1 Conferencing

Products/Assessments

Differentiate products by varying, modifying, and/or offering student choice regarding:

- Work samples
- Performance tasks
- Quizzes and tests
- Projects
- Oral presentations
- Graphic organizers
- Group and individual projects
- Portfolios
- Self-assessment/reflection

Evaluate products and assessments using:

- Graded rubrics
- Criterion lists
- Negotiated criteria
- Varied checklists

Content

Differentiate the content by:

- Providing supplemental or leveled materials at varying degrees of difficulty
- Offering multi-option assignments
- Allowing students to select vocabulary, reading material, note-taking strategies, graphic organizers, assignments, prompts, questions, interest centers, skill stations, etc.
- Expanding or simplifying key concepts and vocabulary
- Creating simplified and/or extension activities
- Using videos, taped materials, and/or computer programs for simplifying or extending learning
- Tapping into prior knowledge and experiences
- Connecting to broader, culturally responsive themes, literature, perspectives, and student interests
- Using tiered instruction

Process/

Instructional Methods

Differentiate the method of instruction by utilizing:

- Flexible, skill-based groupings
- Cooperative groups, dyads, triads or teams
- Group investigations
- Learning stations/centers
- Learning contracts and independent studies
- Modeling/demonstrating
- Think alouds and meta-cognition
- Checking for understanding
- Graphic organizers
- Visuals
- Varied time allotments
- Simulations/role plays
- Peer tutoring
- Field trips/guest speakers
- Debates
- Multi-media, including computer videos, and taped materials
- Varied questions and strategies to promote thinking such as: compare/contrast, categorize by characteristics, hypothesize & experiment, predict, evaluate using criteria, etc.