Gifted Education Glossary

Gifted Option	Definition
Ability Grouping	The flexible regrouping of students based on individual instructional needs
Abstract Content	Content that goes beyond surface detail and fact to underlying concepts, generalizations, and symbolisms
Acceleration	Moving at a faster pace through academic content
Affective Needs	The social and emotional considerations of an individual
Cluster Grouping	The intentional placement of a group of similar ability students in an otherwise heterogeneous (mixed ability) classroom for a particular learning activity
Compacted Curriculum	Streamlining the regular curriculum to "buy time" for enrichment, accelerated content, and independent study. Usually involves pre-assessment of what students has already mastered
Complex Tasks	Providing multiple-step projects for advanced knowledge and skill acquisition
Conceptual Discussions	High level discussions of themes, conceptual, generalizations, issues, and problems, rather than review of facts, terms, details
Cooperative Learning Groups	Providing grouped activities for the purpose of developing peer interaction skills and cooperation. May be like or mixed-ability groups
Creative Problem Solving Practice	Training in the 6-step Parnes process for identifying a problem, generating possible solutions, selecting the "best" solution and implementing that solution; is the basis for the Future Problem Solving program
Creative Skills Training	Training and practice in various creative thinking skills, such as fluency, flexibility, elaboration, risk-taking, SCAMPER, synetics, morphologies, analogies, imagination
Differentiation	The modification of programming and instruction based on a student's academic need and intellectual ability
Dilemmas, Conflict Resolution Tasks	Providing hypothetical and real ethical dilemmas and conflicts in behavior/intent for discussion, solution, etc.
Early Content Mastery	Giving students access to knowledge, concepts in a content area considerably before expected grade or age level expectations
Early exposure to "basics"	Access to the basic knowledge and skills of the range of academic subject areas considerably before expected age or grade
Enrichment	The enhancement of the curricular program with additional opportunities for learning
Flexible Project Deadlines	Occasional recognition of when projects or assignments will be due, especially when high quality work has already been shown
Flexible Project Details	Allowing students to structure their own projects and investigations according to their strengths and interests.
Heterogeneous Grouping	Students are taught in mixed ability groups
Higher Thinking Skills	Questioning, activities based on processing requiring analysis, synthesis, evaluation or other critical thinking skills

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Homogeneous Grouping	Students are taught in similar ability groups
Independent Study Projects	Structured projects agreed upon by student and supervising teacher that allow a student to individually investigate an area of high interest or to advance knowledge in that area
Individualized "Benchmark" Setting	Working with an individual student to set longer-term performance goals through agreed upon student product and performance
Interest Grouping	Grouping students of like interest on a regular basis during the school day for pursuit of advanced knowledge in a specific content area
Learning Contracts	Student and teacher jointly develop a contract for accomplishment of learning goal(s), which both sign and adhere to. Often involves a streamlining of regular class work
Mentoring	Establishment of one-to-one relationship between student and outside-of-school expert in a specific topic area
Open-Ended Assignments	Providing students with tasks and work that do not have a single, convergent outcome or answer. The task may have timelines and a sequence of activities to be accomplished, but outcomes will vary with each student
Organizational Management Training	Training in how to break down projects and goals into manageable and sequential steps and to estimate the time needed to accomplish these steps
Personal Goal Setting	Teaching students to identify their personal goals and how to prioritize their time and activities to reach those goals
Planning Techniques	Training students in "backwards planning," task analysis, flowcharting, etc. to break down projects and goals into manageable sequences of time-related steps
Pull-out Program	Classes and activities that are held during the school day, but outside the regular classroom
"Real Audience" Feedback	Using out-of-school experts to evaluate student work in a specialized area of study
Standards-based Education	A mechanism for which students demonstrate what they know and are able to do with regard to particular content areas
Subject Integration	Uniting two or more disciplines and their content through a conceptual theme, such as "origins" or "change" or "friendship"
Systematic Feedback	Consistent, regular evaluations of student's products, performance, knowledge acquisition for both corrective and reinforcement purposes
Talent Exhibition	Providing the venue in which a student may demonstrate individual talents (academic or artistic), such as concert, show, competition, fair, etc.
Time Management Training	Training in how to make the best use of time available through prioritizing of academic and personal goals