

Glossary & Resources

Acceleration The concept of altering the pace or speed of learning and providing more sophisticated resources for learning to challenge students.

Compacting the procedure used to streamline the regular curriculum for students capable of mastering a task at a faster pace.

Cooperative Grouping The practice of assigning a common task and/or project to a group of students with varying ability levels often reflecting the full range of student achievement and aptitude.

Critical Thinking The development of analytical thinking for purposes of decision making. This includes using specific attitudes and skills such as analyzing arguments carefully, seeing others' points of view, and reaching sound conclusions.

Depth Refers to the concept of challenging learners by enabling them to venture further, deeper, more elaborately into the area of study.

Flex Grouping Homogeneous groups formed on a temporary basis to address specific skills.

Higher-Level Thinking Analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating content of materials for a given purpose.

Independent Study Allowing students to follow individual or self-selected areas of interest and specific aptitude by designing and implementing their own study plans. Close monitoring by teachers is an essential component of an independent study.

Interest Groups Grouping students by interest or choice.

Learning Styles A student's preference for a mode of learning and/or type of learning environment. For example, a student could favor auditory learning in an independent learning environment.

Multiple Intelligences A theory that acknowledges that each person has a combination of intelligences that needs to be nurtured (i.e., linguistic, spatial, musical, mathematical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, body kinesthetic, naturalist).

Novelty Refers to the concept of gaining a personal understanding of the area under study or constructing meaning of knowledge in an individualized manner.

Peer Coaching/Mentoring A practice that indicates voluntary or assigned matching of students by shared characteristics, such as age, ability, need, and/or interest in order to affect teaching and learning.

Problem Solving Challenging students to cooperatively or independently discover and offer varied solutions to a problem in a given curricular area or within a general theme.

Socratic Seminar An open-ended circle discussion centered around a certain text where student interaction guides the discussion by stated opinion and supportive remarks.

Thematic Instruction The use of encompassing classroom themes or generalizations that allow students to explore and discover relationships and connect concepts through an interdisciplinary approach.

Tiered Instruction The use of homogeneous groups to explore a common theme at multiple levels utilizing varied resources and assignments.