

Content Overview

1. One Size Doesn't Fit All **1**

The challenge is how to reach the individual needs of each student. If you believe in the philosophy of differentiation, then you believe that all learners have areas of strength and need based on their interests, backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge base. This chapter identifies content, formative assessment, performance tasks, and instructional strategies as ways to differentiate instruction. Teachers must plan Common Core State Standards strategically to meet the needs of diverse learners in classrooms today.

2. Creating a Climate for Learning **13**

A learning climate needs to establish a healthy, safe, and nurturing environment for all students. This chapter explores ideas, tips, and strategies to build the learning community that addresses the emotional, cognitive, social, and physical aspects of an effective learning culture.

3. Knowing the Learner **27**

Every brain is unique. It is vital for educators to take the time to get to know each learner. The more a teacher learns about each student, the easier it is to understand actions and provide strategic differentiated learning opportunities. Explore this chapter for a treasure chest filled with ways and tools to target personality, personal styles, intelligences, and preferences.

4. Assessing the Learner **55**

Formal and informal formative assessment tools are used to exchange productive feedback and adjust learning opportunities. The gathered assessment data drives curriculum planning. Formative assessment tools are assigned before, during, and after instruction. In this chapter, discover pre-assessment tools that reveal the data needed to create a plan based on each learner's knowledge base and background experience. Use the appropriate tools with observation during the learning process to determine how to pace instruction and make conscious decisions. Identify the mastered goals and standards. Pinpoint what each student learned in the experience.

5. Adjusting, Compacting, and Grouping **83**

Adjustable assignments are planned based on pre-assessment data. Plan adjustable assignments to challenge students at knowledge-based levels. Some learners need interventions at the beginning level of mastery. Many have the proper background needed to learn the grade-level material. Others are reviewing the

material taught and are assigned a challenging, engaging experience to learn more information. Students master information and develop skills at different times, so individual and group assignments are planned to be fluid and flexible. This chapter shares the acronym TAPS for helping with flexible grouping, representing **T**otal or whole-group instruction, **A**lone or independent work, **P**artner tasks, and **S**mall-group assignments.

6. Instructional Strategies for Student Success 113

This chapter outlines brain- and research-based learning strategies to help students succeed. An instructional repertoire is a necessary component to have greater success in reaching all students. Teaching and learning information in varied ways reaches more students. This chapter is designed to assist teachers in their constant search for the best assessment activities to use before, during and after learning. Educators can add the strategies to create a strategy toolbox to motivate and engage students.

7. Curriculum Approaches for Differentiated Classrooms 153

A variety of useful curriculum approaches for implementing differentiated instruction is presented in this chapter. Stations, centers, projects, contracts, cubes, and choice boards are some of the approaches explained and explored in this chapter. Management tips are included for successful implementation. Using these instructional strategies engages learners in motivating opportunities to learn and use information and to develop skills outlined in the Common Core State Standards or standards in your province or country.

8. Putting It All Together in Your Differentiated Classroom 189

Planning is the key to successful implementation of differentiation. In this chapter, a six-step model for successful implementation is provided. View completed examples for the templates for adjustable assignments and lesson plan formats. A variety of lessons are shared for different grade levels. Meet the diverse needs of learners during learner engagement. Implementing differentiated instruction holds the answer to increasing student achievement by meeting the individual's learning needs. Remember,

One Size Doesn't Fit All!