Differentiating Instruction
For All Students
What Is Differentiated Instruction

• Good Instruction
• Teacher’s response to learner’s needs – students are not alike.
• Matching a student’s readiness level, interests, and preferred mode of learning with the content a student learns, the process the student uses to learn the content, and how the student demonstrates learning
  • Readiness: entry point relative to understanding concept
  • Interest: student’s curiosity and passion for learning a specific topic
  • Learning profile: how do students learn best?
What Is Differentiated Instruction

- Guided by general principles
  - Varied approaches of teaching
  - Adjusting curriculum and presentation of materials
  - Student access to multiple paths to show understanding
  - Used to promote learning for ALL students in a classroom, regardless of ability.
Differentiated Instruction

• **Why differentiate instruction?**

  – Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)
    • Students are optimally engaged when academic tasks are just slightly beyond what they can do on their own (Vygotsky, 1978)
    • Students become frustrated with work that is too hard and bored with work that is too easy
Differentiated Instruction

• Four elements of differentiated instruction:
  – Environment: classroom context
  – Content: what to teach
  – Process: how to teach
  – Product: measuring student understanding
Differentiated Instruction

• Environment: classroom context
  – Seating
  – Room arrangement
  – Lighting
  – Music
  – Other
Differentiated Instruction

- Flexible Grouping
  - Whole Group
  - Ability or Readiness
  - Cross Ability – Heterogeneous
  - Student Selected Groups
  - Interest Groups
  - Independent Work
Differentiated Instruction

- Flexible Grouping
  - Continuous monitoring of grouping – changes should be made
  - Clear guidelines must be established and shared with students
  - Each student should have a role
  - Transitions must be quick/efficient
  - Explain grading
Differentiated Instruction

• Content: What to teach
  • What do ALL students need to know? What do SOME students need to know? What do a FEW students need to know?

• Pre-Assessments
  • Students needing support
  • Students needing enrichment
  • Students with a variety of learning styles
Differentiated Instruction

• **Process**
  - *Simultaneous process activities*: providing several options which are available at the same time for students
  - *Sequential process activities*: all students are involved in the same activity, but more than one activity is planned so that all students experience several ways of processing the content
Differentiated Instruction

• **Process**
  – **Varied Materials/Activities**
    • Planning instruction with a wide variety of materials including texts, media, computer applications, video, magazines, audio, field trips
  – **Curriculum Compacting**
    • Using assessment data to excuse students from previously learned content and design activities to assess new concepts
  – **Contracts**
    • Creating individualized plans for students indicating what and how they will study
Differentiated Instruction

• Process
  – Anchoring Activities
    • Providing activities for students who complete tasks early. Should allow students to explore interesting related topics in greater depth.
  – Mini Lessons
    • After whole-group instruction, providing short, focused lessons for re-teaching or enrichment
  – Varied Support
    • Use of a variety of supports such as peer buddies, adult mentors, highlighting important text, study sheets, guided notes
Differentiated Instruction

• Product: the tangible evidence of a student’s understanding of a topic, skill, or concept
  – Provide opportunities for students to think deeply about the target skill or concept
  – Give students 2-3 choices
Differentiated Instruction

Product Examples
- Research Paper
- Experiment
- Brochure
- Simulation
- Painting/Drawing
- Musical Performance
- Dance Performance
- Create a Game

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Theater Production
- Give a Speech
- Create Models
- Demonstration
- Essay
- Worksheet
- Draw a Diagram
- Take a Survey
- Write a News Report