



Strategies for Gifted and Advanced Learners

Getting Started

Depending on your students' needs, see below for examples of strategies that can be utilized in and out of the classroom:

Curriculum compacting	Curriculum compacting is the practice of pretesting student knowledge of material before it is taught.
Flexible tasks	Allow students to structure their own projects and investigations according to their strengths and interests. Consider the use of a learning contract.
Assessments	Offer different assessment options that allow students to demonstrate their mastery of new concepts, content, and skills.
Most difficult first	Students can demonstrate mastery of a concept by completing the five most difficult problems with 85 percent accuracy. Students who demonstrate mastery do not need to practice any more.
Problem based learning	A student-centered instructional strategy in which students collaboratively solve problems and reflect on their experiences. Learning is driven by challenging, open-ended problems.
Accelerated pace	Students progress faster as the teacher speeds up rate of presentation of information to match the significantly faster learning rate of high ability/high potential learners.
Independent study	Students learn about and/or research teacher-chosen or self-chosen topics on their own, developing either a traditional or nontraditional product to demonstrate the learning acquired. With a learning contract, students negotiate individually with teachers about what and how much will be learned and when product will be due.
Grouping strategies	<p>Ability grouping - children of high-ability or with high-achievement levels are put into a separate group for differentiating instruction. Can be full or part-time or flexible sorting.</p> <p>Cluster grouping - the practice of placing the top group of students from a grade into the same classroom.</p> <p>like-ability cooperative learning - Organizing groups of learners in three to four-member teams of like ability and adjusting the group task accordingly.</p>

Send out or pull together programs	Removal of gifted/advanced learners from the regular classroom for a specific period each day or week to work with a trained specialist on differentiated curriculum.
Specialized curriculum programs	Examples: William and Mary curriculum, National History Day, Mentoring Mathematical Minds, Accelerated Math, Project Spring, and Project Spring II (see appendix).
Talent opportunities	Provision of experiences for an individual student with a demonstrated high performance or high potential in a specific area either through individual work or with a group of students with like talents.
Whole grade skipping	A learner is double promoted to bypass one or more grade levels.
Early entrance to school	A gifted child who shows readiness to perform schoolwork enters kindergarten or first grade one to two years earlier than the usual beginning age.
Early admission to college	Student skips some of high school and attends college.
Distance learning and/or special schools for the gifted	Enrollment in college or other challenging courses while still enrolled with age peers (Stanford University's EPGY, for example).
Dual Enrollment	Coursework that earns a student both high school and college credit.
Honors, Advanced Placement® courses	Students take courses with advanced or accelerated content (usually at the secondary level) to test out or receive credit for completion of college level course work. Although one such program is designated Advanced Placement®, several such programs exist, e.g., International Baccalaureate.