



## *Kansas Effective Practices Instructional Toolkit*

Implementing Research and Resources Into Action  
Research Lesson 4: Opportunities to Socialize & Work With Like-Ability Peers

### **Programming Options**

#### **General Classroom Enrichment:**

One method of classroom enrichment is the use of enrichment/learning centers: An area of the classroom is set-aside for independent student activity in a particular area of study. These centers should encourage independent study and individualization in the content areas with gifted students. The focus should be on process rather than on content. Renzulli (1977) states that the emphasis should be on teaching a student to conduct research in the manner used by professionals in the field, rather than simply emphasizing information about the topic itself.

#### **Curriculum Compacting:**

This procedure is used for streamlining the general education curriculum for students who are capable of mastering it at a faster pace. (Reis, Burns, Renzulli; 1992) Individuals or groups of students are assessed to determine their level of proficiency in general education course outcomes, units or courses. A determination is made of content/skills not yet mastered and a plan is made to complete the remaining material and to progress to more appropriate and challenging instruction and materials.

#### **Individual and Small Group Counseling:**

Affective education and counseling are both concerned with personal development and emotions. Affective activities are often led by the teacher or another adult without special training and consist of planned exercises and activities that help students clarify their own feelings and beliefs as related to the curriculum. Counseling, directed by an individual trained in counseling, focuses on individuals. It involves problem solving, making choices, conflict resolution and deeper understanding of self and is unrelated to the curriculum.

#### **Magnet or Special Schools:**

Some large cities design specialized schools, based on talents and needs of students, which offer specialized instruction to less affluent students similar to that offered in private schools.

#### **Cluster Grouping Within Class by Skill Level OR Non-Graded by Skill Level:**

Instead of separating identified gifted students among classes, a "cluster" of five to ten students is placed in one classroom with a general education teacher who has had additional training in how to teach exceptionally capable students. Such training should include how to compact the curriculum, and how to provide enriched, accelerated, and independent study options for gifted students. The other students in that class are of mixed ability.

#### **Pull-Out Groups Within and Across Grades by Targeted Ability and Interest Areas:**

Students are "pulled-out" of the general education classroom and a gifted education teacher/facilitator implements instruction and special studies based on ability and interests of groups of students.

#### **Within Grade Level and Across Grade Level Advanced Classes:**

Advanced classes are designed for students already mastering the basic core of subject matter. Such courses offer consistent study in more depth and breadth to a curricular area with less redundancy from class to class or level to level.

#### **Advanced Placement:**

Advanced Placement (AP) classes give students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while still in high school. Courses are also offered online.

**International Baccalaureate:**

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), a nonprofit educational foundation based in Switzerland, offers advanced curricular options for students in the final two years of secondary school, for students in the 11-16 age range, and for students aged 3 to 12 years. The IBO provides curriculum and assessment development, teacher training and information seminars, electronic networking, and other educational services to its 1000 participating schools in 100 countries around the world.

**Honors Classes:**

General education classes with more complex content covered at a more rapid pace and in greater depth.

**Self-Designed Courses or Independent Study:**

Self-designed courses and independent study can be an excellent way to vary the depth at which students learn. To avoid misuse, direction and supervision, along with a study plan, is needed to insure student success. A format is developed and structure is established that will indicate when the study is completed.

**Special Enrichment Options:**

May be available in or outside of school – Saturday and Summer Programs, Great Books, Young Writers, Future Problem Solving, History Day, Academic Decathlon, Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl, Odyssey of the Mind, Continental Math League, Math Counts, Stock Market Simulation Game, Knowledge Master Open, and Science Olympiad are some examples of special enrichment activities available.

**Individual Options:**

Internships, apprenticeships and mentorships expose students to advanced training and experiences in a career, interest, talent, or content area not ordinarily offered in the general school setting.