

## PLANNING FOR DIFFERENTIATION

When planning for challenge and differentiation for the gifted in your classroom, keep the following in mind:

- Provide gifted students with opportunities to be grouped with intellectual peers for a significant part of the instructional day, as well as with opportunities for independent study.
- Provide multiple opportunities for creative outlets and choices through open-ended projects and products.
- Promote in-depth learning and investigation that deals with real life problems and issues. Provide the opportunity to create real world products and solutions.
- Make sure gifted students are not punished with MORE work or a lesser grade because they take a risk.
- Supplement the standard curriculum with more challenging, rigorous learning opportunities.
- Provide higher-level activities and lesson options (or tiered lessons) on a regular basis, including divergent and evaluative thinking.
- Allow time for gifted students to explore their passion areas and express them in varied disciplines and media.
- Encourage students to persevere in the face of obstacles or frustration.
- Encourage independent study and research skills, including the use of multiple resources and the reading of original documents.
- Allow student-centered discussion, Socratic questioning and seminar-type learning.
- Avoid having gifted students tutor less able students within the regular class setting.
- Reduce the amount of lecture, worksheets, drill, and practice.
- **Remember:** BOTH enrichment and acceleration are necessary.

Adapted from Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education and Pennsylvania State Education Association