

Education Specifications

Learning on Your Own Path

Foster meaningful learning experiences for all students

Fostering and supporting life-long, self-directed learners prepares students to be both college and career ready and is the end goal. And it is acceptable for the path taken to be different for every child. Every student is unique and learns differently, thus creating environments for all learners becomes even more important. Schools and classrooms intentionally constructed to support a variety of learning styles, offers multiple methods of presentation, and affords students multiple options for their active participation and expression better meets the diverse needs of students today. The importance of variety is two-fold: students stretch themselves in their dominant modes while being exposed to and developing non-dominant ones at the same time.

Although children in schools today are approximately within the same age range, the diverse needs of students is actually greater today than those of children once assembled in one room schoolhouses. Differentiation is not a different curriculum or content delivered to students within the same classroom. It means providing a multitude of approaches and strategies to a variety of student learning styles, student interests, and rates and complexities of each student's skill and abilities of learning.

Differentiated classrooms do hold all students to high standards, expectations, and outcomes. Teachers are responsive to their learners' needs. For example, teachers providing differentiated instruction use time flexibly, utilize a range of instructional strategies, and take into account how the classroom environment shapes and supports student learning. The content, product or process utilized to teach and learn the content are all areas teachers may differentiate. It is about teachers appreciating, respecting, and responding to students as individuals. Providing differentiated instruction attends to both student similarities and differences. It is anything but a one-size-fits all or mechanical instructional design and delivery approach and, as such, requires the ability to utilize inside and outside learning space, and affords individual, small group, and large group areas to facilitate teaching and learning. The goal of a differentiated classroom is to maximize student growth and individual success.

