

Differentiation Defined

- * Different does not mean the curriculum is Differentiated.
- * Different simply means the students in your class are not all doing the same thing.
- * Differentiated means each student is working on what they need to grow academically.
- * The content, pace, and depth of the curriculum is typically what is differentiated.

Enrichment is not the same as **Extended** Curriculum. **Extra** - is just that.

Enrichment means to make something more meaningful. When students have mastered a skill or concept (measurement,) they could:

- apply it in a real situation - draw a poster or house with specific size criteria.
- find and explain situations where the skill /concept is used - construction, sewing, ordering materials.
- modify what they have learned to a different situation - convert to other units or systems.

Extension means a part that is added to continue something based on amount, degree, or range.

When students have mastered a skill or concept (planetary orbits) they could

- study the effect of gravity on other objects in space
- research what is needed for humans to live on another planet
- find the likelihood of life in other solar systems

Extra means in addition to.

- Advanced Learners should not be doing something more (or extra) after they have finished a given assignment. Instead, substitute the original assignment with something at their level.
- Advanced Learners should also not make up class work they missed, unless you believe they really do not understand the concepts you are teaching.
- Allow Advanced Learners to work ahead

Accelerating the curriculum has a different focus than **Compacting**

Accelerating means students are learning material at one or more levels beyond where they are currently placed. They do NOT have to earn an A. Students can be accelerated in

- one subject
- several subjects
- an entire grade level

Compacting refers to less content being learned at a faster pace. Student are usually pretested and then taught only the parts of the curriculum they don't know. Several concepts may be taught at the same time allowing students to master the information quickly. Compacting is usually used to

- catch a student up to another grade level
- provide skills needed to participate in a special program
- allow time for independent study

“For a perfect day, all the kids would be at school; the work would be challenging but fun; the lunch line would be short. At the end of the day I'd have no homework and the bus wouldn't be noisy.” -- Girl, age 10