

## Curriculum Opportunities for Gifted Students

### Glossary of Terms

**Acceleration** refers to the strategy of teaching content at a faster pace and usually a year ahead of the designated instructional grade level placement.

**Cluster grouping** occurs when groups of four to seven identified gifted students are “clustered” in the classroom of a teacher who has been trained in differentiation. This strategy allows students to work with academic peers throughout the school day.

**Creative thinking** is divergent. It involves exploring ideas, generating possibilities, and seeking more than one right answer. Terms used with students in discussing this type of thinking include brainstorming, fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration.

**Critical thinking** is deliberate and utilized in all academic areas. Critical thinking includes analyzing, evaluating, inferring, interpreting, judging, problem solving and synthesizing.

**Curricular enhancement** is a compilation of methods, materials and activities which teachers may use as a basis to modify curriculum for students having already demonstrated mastery in a particular area.

**Curriculum-based services** are modifications made to course content and instructional strategies used by classroom and gifted resource teachers. The modifications often result in changes in the accomplishments or requirements of the individual students.

**Curriculum Compacting** involves streamlining, condensing or eliminating grade level curriculum for students who have already achieved goals and objectives of the regular curriculum.

**Differentiation** is the process of adapting the curriculum according to the ability or interest level of the student. It is specifically geared to content, process or product.

**Enrichment** often involves extensions of the grade level curriculum. Classroom teachers may ask specific questions, which have the student thinking on a higher level, or provide activities that allow the student to investigate further into an area of study.

**Student-based services** are modifications to the student’s program of learning which are based upon the student’s ability. Services are available at the elementary level through grade skipping or math acceleration or grade acceleration.