

Ascent Program

Definition

Gifted students are capable of high performance, exceptional production, or exceptional learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of these areas of giftedness:

- General or specific intellectual ability
- Specific academic aptitude
- Creative or productive thinking
- Leadership abilities
- Visual arts, performing arts or musical abilities

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/index.htm>

Guiding Principles

- Relevant, appropriate instruction and outcomes for gifted learner
- Shared responsibility and involvement of educators, parents, and community for the academic and affective outcomes and growth of gifted learners
- A climate of excellence and rigorous curricula for every child
- Differentiation in curricula, instruction, and assessment supporting tiered programming and a continuum of services for every gifted learner
- High quality standards for educators and counselors who work with gifted learners
- Identification and gifted programming in all populations of race, culture, gender, and income level

Instructional Strategies

To provide the best possible educational opportunities for gifted children, the Aspen School District advocates a variety of best practices.

Differentiation: A means of addressing the particular strength areas and promoting the continual growth of students in a classroom environment.

Cluster Grouping: Small group of students are placed together according to their identified strength areas in a mixed ability classroom.

Flexible Pacing: A form of acceleration in which the pace of the material presented and/or expected to be mastered is adjusted.

Curriculum Compacting: A systematic procedure for modifying or streamlining the regular curriculum.

Guided Independent Study: A process through which student and teacher identify problems or topics of interest to the student, plan a method of investigation and identify a product to be developed.

Acceleration: Acceleration offers standard curricular experiences to students at a younger-than-usual age or lower-than-usual grade level.

Collaborative Teaching: A specialist supports the regular classroom teacher to deliver more challenging instruction.

Enrichment/Extensions: These activities may include seminars, workshops, competitions and participation in national events.

Links

National Association for Gifted Children (<http://www.nagc.org/>)

Colorado Department of Education: GT Education (www.cde.state.co.us/gt/index.htm)

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented: (www.coloradogifted.org/)