Developing an Array of Services for Highly Capable Students

**Summary Ideas**

* No one program fits all of the needs of highly capable students.
* Programs and services must be designed to match the identified learning needs of highly capable students.
* Districts have many options for designing services for highly capable students. These services may be within the general classroom, unique for highly capable students, acceleration of any kind, or special services that go beyond the school or classroom.
* Teachers need to differentiate instruction in all types of grouping arrangements.
* Flexible grouping allows students to be grouped according to their ever-changing readiness levels and interests.
* There are many ways that students may be accelerated – examples include working a grade level above in a subject area in the general education classroom, skipping a grade in school, and entering college early.
* Acceleration has been researched extensively, and results show a strong positive impact on academic achievement.
* Programs across different size districts may look different. Districts have the option to collaborate with one another, or with outside agencies to share opportunities for serving their highly capable students.
* District services should match the district’s philosophy, definitions of highly capable students, and identification methods to ensure that students are receiving services for their specific identified learning needs.

**Take Action Research Possibilities**

1. Examine your own district’s array of services for highly capable students.

2. Possible Action Steps:

* Evaluate your own program options to determine which ones match your identification system, and which ones meet the needs of your students. Make a plan to redesign or eliminate services that do not match the students you are serving.
* Seek input from the constituents in your district to determine how you will redesign services to match student needs?
* Make an action plan for change: Make a priority list of action steps needed, who is responsible, and the timeline for implementation. What would you like to change?
* Based on the size of your district, design your own array of services for highly capable students. You may wish to interview school district personnel or families to determine which services might best meet the needs of students in your district.
* With colleagues or on your own, design a plan that answers the question, “What is the optimal design of highly capable services for your district?” You may use the template seen in this PowerPoint presentation or design your own. Be sure to include grade levels for the different services that you design. Please upload your action plan to this assignment site in CANVAS.
* Examine the continuity of services for your district’s highly capable students. On your own or with colleagues, modify or write policies and procedures that improve the continuity of services.