Teaching New Content to Students in Mixed-Ability Classes

- Introduce the entire unit to the class using a survey technique that allows students to glimpse an overview of all the content included in the unit.

- Provide Study Guides and Extension Menus to students who need them.

- Each class period, teach for no more than 15 minutes at a time. Then, allow students to work on self-selected activities that give them practice in what you just taught. You can repeat this pattern several times during a class period. Use the Curriculum Planning Chart, Tiered Lesson Planning Chart, or Extension Menus for the self-selected activities.

- Allow advanced students to learn required standards from the Study Guide and work on extension activities from the Extension Menus or on advanced tasks from the Curriculum Planning Chart or Tiered Lesson Planning Chart.

- All students experience the same assessments at the same time. Students working independently who are not competent on an assessment rejoin the direct instruction group for the rest of the unit.

- Teach students who are working independently how to keep accurate daily records of their extension work.

- Make time for students who are working on extension activities to share what they have learned with other class members or another appropriate audience.

- Provide opportunities for all students to work on extension activities now and then.