

© Essential Steps in Curriculum Compacting

Curriculum compacting enables teachers to streamline the regular curriculum, ensure students' mastery of basic skills, and provide time for challenging and interesting enrichment and/or acceleration activities.*

Curriculum compacting should:

- eliminate repetition of mastered content and/or skills
- increase the challenge level of the regular curriculum
- provide time for students to investigate topics beyond the scope of the regular curriculum or topics of interest**

STEPS TO CURRICULUM COMPACTING

- 1.** Identify the key content standards all students must know, understand, and be able to do within the context of the unit.
- 2.** Assess students' current understanding of the content standards.
- 3.** When students demonstrate mastery of all the objectives, allow them to participate in enriched/enhanced/extended (E3) or acceleration activities.
- 4.** When students demonstrate mastery of some but not all of the objectives, provide small group or mini-lessons on objectives not mastered so they, too, can move on to E3 or acceleration activities.
- 5.** Create a contract with students that describes the E3 or acceleration activities, due dates, norms of self-study or small group work, and expectations and rubrics for final projects.

Compacting options for gifted students:

- E3 activities
- accelerated content (moving forward a year)
- interest or learning centers
- self-directed learning units
- passion projects
- online course work
- service learning projects
- working with mentors or experts in the field

Benefits of curriculum compacting for gifted students:

Compacting helps ensure that gifted students who have mastered the required content:

- continuously learn new information
- attain higher level of cognitive stimulation
- achieve a greater sense of self-efficacy
- develop self-regulation skills
- become more motivated to learn
- demonstrate persistence
- become more independent
- become willing to learn in small groups or through self-instruction
- learn to dig deeper into content areas

* Renzulli, J. S., and S. M. Reis. *Enriching Curriculum for All Students*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, 2008.

** Heacox, D. *Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing, 2012.